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Catholic Historical Book of Schuylkill County

1842-1917

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Rev. Henry J. Steinhagen.
November, 10, 1917.

1842 1917

A RETROSPECT OF

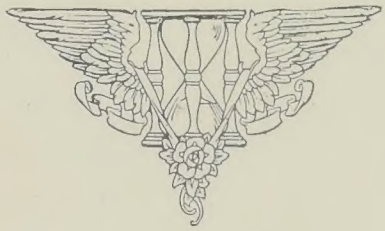
St. John the Baptist's Parish

AS A SOUVENIR OF THE

75th ANNIVERSARY

OF THE FOUNDATION

OF THE CHURCH



NOVEMBER 10th

1917

TO

THE REVEREND
FREDERICK WILLIAM LONGINUS,
RECTOR,

AND TO

THE MEMBERS
OF
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST'S CATHOLIC CHURCH,
OF POTTSVILLE, PA.,

AS A TOKEN OF
ESTEEM,

THIS SKETCH
IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED

BY

HENRY JOHN STEINHAGEN,
ASSISTANT PRIEST.

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The author of this sketch of the past and present of St. John the Baptist's parish is greatly indebted to the kindness of the Reverend Frederick William Longinus for allowing him free access to the records of the church and to the numerous facts and events which he brought to his notice; also to the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia, for certain books and pamphlets; to the Right Reverend Monsignor Francis Joseph McGovern, of St. Patrick's Church, Pottsville, for the loan of the "Diary and Visitation Record of the Rt. Rev. Francis Patrick Kenrick," and to certain parishioners for their generous co-operation and the interesting and accurate data with which they supplied him, also to Mr. Joseph Aloysius Weber, of Philadelphia.

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HIS HOLINESS, POPE BENEDICT XV.

Early Pottsville and Vicinity

BEFORE the year 1790, there were, comparatively speaking, few settlers north of the Blue, or Kittatinny mountain, within the limits of Schuylkill county, except in the valley south of the second mountain. About the year 1795, or '96, two individuals, Lewis Reese and Isaac Thomas, settled on the north of the well-known "Schneid Berg," *i. e.*, Sharp mountain, in the Schuylkill Gap. Having purchased a tract of land, and erected a small furnace, carrying it on for some time, they sold it to John Pott, of District township, Berks county, Pennsylvania.

When Reese and Thomas erected the furnace, they, as is common, erected a number of small houses for "the hands at work," and were occupied by some eight or more families; the heads of these were John Else, Henry Bolton, Daniel Focht, the clerk, Thomas Sawyer, Anthony Schott, George Frievie and Daniel Reimer; these all lived at the furnace before Mr. Pott moved his family here; he had erected all these tenant houses before 1809.

Besides Mr. Pott, the following were among the first, or pioneer settlers: Henry McClattery, and one Neuschwaender, settled a short distance south of Pott's, at the place known as Mount Carbon. Michael Boechtel had settled on the farm then owned by Cary, Lee & Hart, of Philadelphia. About one-half mile further west lived Jacob Yoe. At the present site of Minersville lived Thomas Reed and Isaac Reed. Three miles north of Pott's, John Boyer had settled, at the well-known placed called "Flowing Field"; some four miles north of this lived the well-known Nicho Allen, at the Big Spring on the summit of the Broad mountain. His residence was known as the "Black Cabin." Two miles northeast of Pott's lived Peter Neuschwaender, John Hughes, Philip Dilcomp, Solomon Reep, Jacob Reep, Peter Reep, George Reep, Conrad Keim and John Keim. At the present Port Carbon several families had settled; these were Mr. Stitzel, known in his day as "Der Zimmerman," *i. e.*, the carpenter; Shadrack Lord, father of Mr. Lord at Bayhill. Shadrack had settled on Eagle Hill. These families, with Mr. Pott, were the pioneer settlers of this portion of the lower anthracite region.

Who and how many of these pioneer settlers were German-speaking Catholics is difficult to ascertain, perhaps few or none.

Other than the natural increase the population was slow—little or no accession prior to 1810 or 1811. It was some eight or ten years after the discovery of coal before this place attracted much attention. The first coal discovered here was, according to the statement of Abraham Pott, son of John, in 1807, when the foundation for Greenwood furnace was dug, in digging which, a vein of coal was found; and in digging the foundation of Pott's grist mill, in 1810, a vein of nine feet was struck and successfully worked by Mr. Joseph Beddle; but its use and value were not then known and fully appreciated. After the indefatigable efforts of Doctor McFarland, a scientific gentlemen, to bring the coal here into notice, who had opened a vein on the "York Farm," in 1814, two miles west of Greenwood furnace, and the laying out of Pottsville by John Pott, in 1816, this place

increased rapidly, and soon a considerable town grew up in the forest. The ground or town plot was surveyed and laid off for the proprietor by Henry Donnell, who was also among the first to erect a house. William Casley, Joseph Leckey and George Dengler also, each of them, put up dwellings here shortly after Pottsville was laid out.

About this time, or shortly afterwards, in 1818, Mr. Jacob Reed opened a vein of coal at Minersville. From this time onward speculators and a consequent tide of immigration tended to this region of country. Pottsville formed the nucleus of a dense settlement—"an oppidan settlement," for it is surrounded by towns, hamlets and villages.

John Pott, son of John Pott, deceased, erected a distillery about the year 1819. Lewis Ebert built a house the same year. From 1820 to 1824 a number of persons settled here; among others of enterprise was Colonel George Shoemaker, who had, as early as 1813, opened the Spohn vein of coal, began to build in Pottsville. From 1824 the growth of the town was rapid, and the improvements in the vicinity correspondent with the town—both unprecedented in the history of the country; for, in 1882, the house, since known as the White Horse tavern, was kept by Mr. John Pott, the proprietor, and who owned land in the vicinity, as a sort of watering place for the stages on the Sunbury road. In 1824, we hear of five scattered dwellings in the vicinity. The causes which led to the influx of miners and speculators about the year 1825 have been stated above—the town was soon laid out—or rather several towns were started—for each prominent adventurer had his favorite location, and as each successive arrival of greedy adventurers tended to fan the flame of speculation, town lots and coal tracts (some with coal and many whose coal was but imaginary), doubled, trebled and quadrupled in value, and passed from hand to hand like currency. Houses were rapidly constructed to accommodate the immense crowds that came to search for lots and lands, and in 1828, we hear of several excellent stone houses and stores, others of brick and frame, a weekly newspaper—The Miners' Journal—a reading room, hotels, etc. Messrs. John and Benjamin Pott had, as said above, erected Greenwood furnace and forge, and were making iron from ore obtained below the Blue mountain. The next year, Clinton Row, or Mahantongo street, and another row of houses were erected; and such was the activity in building, that it became necessary to send to Philadelphia for lumber, to use in a region that hitherto had exported little else than lumber and coal. A daily stage to Philadelphia was also established in that year, and a trip of fourteen hours was cracked up as something remarkable. A dozen little towns had already risen around Pottsville. Railroads also began to be introduced, imparting a new impetus to the coal trade. The Schuylkill valley, the Mill creek and the Mount Carbon railroads were started in that year.

In 1831 the number of buildings had increased to five hundred and thirty-five, of which there were sixty-two of brick and sixty-eight of stone, together with an Episcopal church, a meeting house and a beautiful structure for the Miners' Bank, of which the front is of cast iron; and the commodious hotels of Mr. Seitzinger and Colonel Shoemaker. There were also seventy stores, richly stocked, among which were those of two booksellers and stationers, and of tailors, milliners and dressmakers. And they boasted, too, of a circulating library and Exchange Reading Rooms; two newspapers and a seminary.

A writer in "The Pottsville Advocate," early in 1831, thus spoke of the place:

"The town of Pottsville, by the late census, contains upwards of 2,500 inhabitants. The fluctuating population having withdrawn, there may be a trifling decrease; for, at the time when the census was taken, we were

His Excellency, THE MOST REVEREND JOHN VINCENT BONZANO, D. D.
Titular Archbishop of Militene
APOSTOLIC DELEGATE TO THE UNITED STATES

thronged with strangers, drawn to the place by the ill-advised and premature uproar so foolishly raised about it. That, however, fortunately, did no essential harm, and is an earnest that, for the future, it is not even in the power of our friends to injure us. We have now seventy stores, of various kinds, richly stocked, many of them rivalling those of Philadelphia in appearance."

"Since last spring, about fifty new brick buildings have been erected in the town, more than half of which are large three-story houses. Among these are the uniform stores erected by James Appleton, at the upper part of Centre street. Jacob Alter has also erected three handsome stores in the neighborhood of the Arcade."

"Since the above extract was published, now fifteen years (1846), many important changes have taken place. Old mines have been exhausted or abandoned and new ones opened; a great number of new railroads have been constructed, several mines have been explored, and profitably worked, below the water level. The geology of the region has been fully explored; Pottsville, Reading and Philadelphia railroad has been opened, in 1842, affording daily communication in seven hours to Philadelphia, and promising to effect a complete revolution in the transportation of coal; the speculations of 1836 have expanded and exploded."

"Pottsville has increased its population from 2,424, in 1830, and 3,117 in 1835, to 4,345, in 1840; and is now a compact, bustling place. Its trade, no longer driven back and forth by the tide of speculation, has settled, or is settling, into a steady channel, well understood and well managed by capitalists, merchants and miners. The town now contains a handsome Episcopal church and a splendid new Catholic church (the old St. Patrick's church), both in the Gothic style; a German Catholic church and neat edifices for the Presbyterian, German Reformed and Lutheran, Methodist Episcopal, Welsh Methodist, Universalists, Welsh Baptist, Welsh Presbyterians, Welsh Calvinists, Quakers and an African; in all, fourteen churches; two academies, a number of public schools, a spacious town hall, a splendid hotel, called Pennsylvania Hall, and several other spacious hotels; a furnace, at which iron has been successfully made with anthracite coal; a forge and rolling mill; several large foundries, steam engine factories and machine shops, etc."

"There are four weekly newspapers published and ably conducted, viz.: "The Miners' Journal," edited by Benjamin Bannan, Esq.; "The Pottsville Emporium," by E. O. Jackson, Esq.; "The Anthracite Gazette," by Messrs. Wynkoop & Kershner, Esqrs.; and one, a German paper, "Die Freiheist Presse."

Such is a brief description of the origin and early history of Pottsville as gleaned from an old book, compiled from various sources by I. Daniel Rupp, published in 1845, entitled "History of Northampton, Lehigh, Monroe, Carbon and Schuylkill Counties: containing a Brief History of the Early Settlers and Interesting Facts in the Early History of These Counties."

PHOTO BY GUTEKUNST

HIS GRACE,
THE MOST REVEREND EDMOND FRANCIS PRENDERGAST, D. D.
Metropolitan Archbishop of Philadelphia

Founding of St. John the Baptist's Parish

Before the year 1840, the Reverend Nicholas Steinbacher, S.J., came monthly on horseback from Reading to Pottsville, along the Sunbury road that ran through it, to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for the German-speaking Catholics in the basement of St. Patrick's Church, and to preach to them the word of God in the German language. This he did until his horse, on one of these journeys to Pottsville, broke its leg, after which his visits were discontinued.

The Reverend Nicholas Steinbacher, S. J., was a zealous and energetic priest, an untiring missionary, a man after God's own heart, for in the diary of the Right Reverend Francis Patrick Kenrick, D.D., we read of him coming to St. Mary's, Lebanon, once each month; St. Peter's, Elizabethtown, he visited occasionally; we read of his being at Gettysburg and Moselem and at the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, Nippenose Valley, now Bastress.

These are a few of the churches that he ministered to in his missionary travels through the State of Pennsylvania on behalf of the German Catholics, who were scattered here and there throughout the State.

His memory should, therefore, be cherished and his name be dear to the Catholics of this great State, because of his unceasing missionary labors in behalf of the spiritual welfare of their forefathers.

The faithful German Catholics, however, whom he attended to in Pottsville desired to be present at Mass every Sunday; they were not satisfied with mere monthly attendance.

St. Patrick's Church, although at that time considered to be a large church, was yet too small to accommodate all the Catholic parishioners, who flocked from far and near every Sunday to attend Divine worship. This being the case, the German Catholics were glad when they got the opportunity on Sundays to stand or kneel in the vestibule of the church.

One Sunday Mr. Henry Ackerman and Mr. Dusch, both young men then, wished to attend Mass, but owing to the crowded condition of the church, they were politely informed that this Mass was not celebrated for the Germans.

It was on this occasion that these two men conceived the idea of building a church for Catholics preferring to speak the German language.

A meeting of the German-speaking Catholics was therefore called for this purpose August 19, 1840, in the home of George Dusch, at which twelve men were present. Here it was resolved to buy the lot at the southeast corner of Fourth and Howard Avenue for $350.00.

The old church still stands here and is used by the Italian-speaking Catholics for Divine worship, having been purchased from the Most Reverend Archbishop by the Reverend Peter Michetti, for the use of his congregation on July 31, 1907, for $2500.

At the next meeting, August 24, 1840, a motion was made by Mr. Nicholas Selgrath to select St. John the Baptist as patron of the new church. This motion was seconded by Mr. Henry Ackerman and unanimously accepted by the following gentlemen present: Messrs. Nicholas Selgrath, Henry Ackerman, Anthony Redelberger, Anthony Garner, Frank Reith, the brothers Dusch, Frank Altstatt, Lawrence Fischer, Mr. Buch, Joseph Klein,

PHOTO BY GUTEKUNST

THE RIGHT REVEREND JOHN JOSEPH McCORT, D. D., L. L. D., V. G.

Titular Bishop of Azotus

Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia

John Scheibelhut, Peter Fletchen, John Becker, Adam Reith, Ferdinand Boedefeld, Ignatius Gaertner, Frank Ackerman, Clement Ackerman, Peter Woll, Caspar Balzer, Peter Ochs and the brothers Buehler. Twenty-four men were present at this meeting.

There were at this time only twenty-seven families and a few single men of German origin who were interested in the building of the new church. These German-speaking people, moreover, were much scattered, some living in Pottsville, others in Crow Hollow, on Peach Mountain, in Mt. Laffee, Minersville, Port Carbon, St. Clair and as far as Schuylkill Haven and Patterson, now Brocton.

Early in October, 1840, a letter was sent to the Right Reverend Francis Patrick Kenrick, D.D., who had been Coadjutor-Bishop and Administrator of the Diocese of Philadelphia since 1830.

On October 10, 1840, the following answer was received from Bishop Kenrick: "It is the discipline of the Diocese of Philadelphia in conformity with the decree of the first Council of Baltimore, held in 1829, and of the Synod of Philadelphia, held in 1832, that all Ecclesiastical property (except such as belongs to Religious Orders) be vested in the Bishop as Trustee of the Congregation. In order, then, that the ground recently purchased by the Germans for a Grave-Yard and Church be blessed as a Catholic Cemetery it is necessary that it be legally conveyed to me by name in trust for the German Catholics."

On January 20, 1841, the deed to the property was sent to the Right Reverend Bishop Administrator, and on January 28, 1841, he wrote as follows: "To all whom it may concern. We certify that on the twenty-eighth day of January, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and forty-one, we approved and accepted the deed made by the German Catholics of Pottsville to us in trust for the congregation, of a certain lot of ground, in the borough of Pottsville, and agreed that on the recording of said deed, we shall ratify and confirm any arrangement made by the grantors thereof for the transfer of lots in said burial ground to families or individuals, provided that no one shall be entitled to burial thereon unless according to the rules and discipline of the Catholic Church."

LAYING OF THE CORNER-STONE

In June, 1842, the corner-stone of St. John the Baptist's Church at Fourth and Howard Avenue was blessed and laid by the Reverend Nicholas Steinbacher, S.J. At the meeting of the Trustees, November 15, 1842, Messrs. George Dusch and Conrad Ruff were empowered to purchase all the materials and to supply the labor necessary to complete the church building.

A very pretty anecdote illustrating the zeal and devotion of early Catholics is told relating to the building of this old stone church. It is said that the women assisted the men by collecting the stones in wheelbarrows from Sharp Mountain, and by bringing water for the mortar from a far distance. It is a fact that the women helped the men whenever and wherever they could, the most work being done in the late afternoon and early evening.

You, their children, have therefore every reason to be proud of the zeal, energy and perseverance of your forefathers, for the preservation and promotion of the faith, which they valued so highly and for which they were willing to make such sacrifices.

It seems that after Father Nicholas Steinbacher no longer came to Pottsville, the Reverend Edward Maginnis celebrated Mass for the German-speaking Catholics every other Sunday, and for a time in the basement of St. Patrick's Church, since, at a meeting of the trustees, October 30, 1842, he was

THE RIGHT REVEREND FRANCIS JOSEPH McGOVERN, P.R., R.D.

granted a salary of so much per annum, for having celebrated Mass and for continuing to do so every two weeks until they would receive a resident pastor. The church was blessed by the Reverend Edward Maginnis, having been delegated by Bishop Kenrick to do so.

On November 10, 1842, a committee appointed by the trustees, drafted the following letter, which was sent to the Right Reverend Francis Patrick Kenrick, D.D., Bishop of Philadelphia.

RIGHT REVEREND SIR:

"The German Catholic Church here has been finished so far, that through the kindness of the Reverend Father Maginnis we have had service in it for some time past, but since the weather is getting too cold, we will not be able to have service in it again until spring.

"Under present circumstances we do not know when we should be happy enough to see the church finished; we cannot pay our old debts, and are therefore afraid to contract new ones, but at the same time it is our sincere wish to see the church finished and to have a German-speaking priest, so that the congregation be kept together, while at present here and there some of our brethren are falling away from the church.

"We have heard that the Order of the Redemptorists at Baltimore are building German Catholic Churches in various places in the Union with the aid of our brethren in the faith in the old country.

"Considering all this we take the liberty of addressing you on this subject, and to ask you, leaving our case entirely in your hands and to your disposition, whether it would be in accordance with your views to ask the aid of the Redemptorists to finish the church and to supply us with a priest?

"Knowing that your advice and all the arrangements you think proper to make will be best we have the honor to remain, Your humble servants, etc."

On Sunday, November 13, 1842, Father Maginnis informed the German-speaking Catholics that the Bishop had appointed the Reverend Joseph Burg, on the 10th of November, as first resident pastor of St. John the Baptist's Church.

This church enjoys the distinction of being the first Catholic Church to be built in Schuylkill county for the German-speaking Catholics.

The Reverend Joseph Burg, who was a native of Hungary, arrived in Pottsville December 5, 1842.

It is extremely difficult to discover when this first church was completed, but Father Maginnis, of St. Patrick's Church, celebrated Mass in it for some time before November 10, 1842.

During his residence in Pottsville, Father Burg dwelt in the house 301 Union Street. Mr. Terry bought it from the congregation February 8, 1871, for $1600. It still stands today.

Louisa Lippe, daughter of Adolph Lippe and Theresa Eichorn, born December 6, 1842, and William Eberle, son of Peter Eberle, and Anna Wahl, born December 10, 1842, were the first infants whom Father Burg baptized as pastor of the new parish December 15, 1842.

He was pastor of St. John's Church until January 16, 1849, on which date he died. He was buried in No. 1 cemetery in the rear of the old church, from which his remains were exhumed and removed by the Reverend Frederick William Longinus to the foot of the cross in No. 2 cemetery, Yorkville, in the year 1883, and there reinterred.

In the little stone church there were for some time no pews and no kneeling benches. It is said that some brought their own chairs along, while others carried benches to accommodate them who came from out of town to attend Mass. This edifying story is also told, that the women built the fire late Saturday night in order to warm the church for the Sunday morning worship.

THE REVEREND
FREDERICK WILLIAM LONGINUS

The Reverend Peter Maria Carbon, who was born August 4, 1822, in Alsace, France, and was ordained priest together with the Reverend Joseph Vincent O'Keeffe on January 7, 1849, in St. John's Cathedral, Philadelphia, by the Right Reverend Alexander Smith, D.D., Titular Bishop of Parium, and Coadjutor of the Vicar Apostolic of Glasgow District. He succeeded Father Burg as pastor in January, 1849, and was in charge until July, 1850. When he became pastor of St. Peter's Church, Reading, and in August, 1854, of the Holy Trinity Church, Philadelphia, where on October 19, 1871, he died. He lies buried in the priests' vault at Holy Trinity Church in Philadelphia.

The Right Reverend Bishop Francis Patrick Kenrick administered the Sacrament of Confirmation for the first time in the little stone church while Father Burg was pastor. It is written in the Bishop's diary, under date of October 5, 1845, "I confirmed one hundred in the Church of St. John in Pottsville." Again we read in his diary, September 5, 1847, "At three o'clock in the afternoon I confirmed sixty-six in the Church of St. John the Baptist in the town of Pottsville, where there is a congregation of Germans." And on July 22, 1849, this entry appears in his diary: "On this day I confirmed fifty-six in the Church of St. John of the German congregation, in the town of Pottsville, at three o'clock P. M."

OPENING OF THE FIRST SCHOOL

It was during the pastorate of the good Father Carbon, on July 15, 1849, that the congregation resolved to build a school for their own children. They had begun to collect for this noble purpose in 1848. It is probable that this school house, which stood where the Rectory of the Italian parish now stands on Howard Avenue, next to the Italian Catholic Church on Fourth Street, was opened for the first time in September, 1850, shortly after the Reverend Daniel Oberholzer, O. M. Cap., who was born in Goldingen, Helvetia, Switzerland, August 31, 1809, came here as pastor July, 1850 He was ordained Priest at Fribourg, Switzerland, December 22, 1832, by the Right Reverend Peter Tobias Yenni, D. D., Bishop of Lausanne and Geneva.

It was a one-story building, about forty feet long, thirty feet wide and consisting of one large room, ten feet high. It was built of stone, which was afterward used in erecting the stone wall on the Howard Street side of the Italian Church property, as well as the stone wall on the Mahantongo Street and Tenth Street sides of the present St. John's Church property. This old school house was torn down.

The following male teachers taught here in the order mentioned: Messrs. Becker, Schwankopf, Stehle, Bell, Kuhnel, Schaefer, November 20th, 1854—December 16th, 1854, F. Gressang, December 28th, 1854, Peter Meyer and Mr. Feist, but the years during which they taught are not known.

The thought of one or the other of these male teachers recalls rueful memories of those days in some of the pupils, because of his teacher's readiness in using the stick or strap and for the energy and efficiency with which he applied it, invariably producing a period of quiet and order among the pupils. The stick or strap, if it were used judiciously in certain obstinate cases, would even today produce excellent results both at home and in school.

The school enjoyed but one teacher at a time. In those days the children attended school until they received their first Holy Communion, which was usually between their twelfth and thirteenth birthdays, afterward being sent to work.

It is highly probable that Bishop Kenrick gave Confirmation for the last time, in the Diocese of Philadelphia, in St. John's Church, Pottsville,

before he was raised to the Metropolitan See of Baltimore, October 9th, 1851, because his diary, under date of September 14, 1851, contains these few words: "I gave Confirmation in the Church of St. Patrick, Pottsville, and in the Church of St. John the same day (German Church, also in Pottsville)." There is no other Confirmation entry until after he became Archbishop of Baltimore.

PURCHASE OF NEW CEMETERY.

It was during Father Oberholzer's administration that the need of a new cemetery became evident.

No. 1, in the rear of the old church, was filling rapidly, and he therefore looked around for a plot of ground suitably located for a new cemetery.

After due search and investigation, on January 24th, 1853, he purchased two acres on the south side of Mahantongo Street between Twentieth and Twenty-first Streets, for $716.40, including all improvements, the ground itself costing $200.00, with the right of buying more.

In a document dated January 24, 1853, and which is preserved among the parish records, Father Oberholzer writes that, that part of the cemetery, from the cross to Mahantongo Street, which is 333 feet long and 130 feet wide, should remain unblessed, in order that the resident pastor of St. John's congregation, Pottsville, could raise vegetables thereon, until necessity required that the said part of the cemetery be used also for interments.

The location of this cemetery, owing to its distance from the old church and to the roundabout way of driving there, was at the time of its purchase unsatisfactory to many of the parishioners, but now Father Oberholzer is acknowledged to have used prudent judgment and to have had keen foresight when he purchased the Yorkville property for a cemetery.

He writes in a book, which is numbered among the parish records and dated February 18, 1853, that the leaders who opposed him in the purchase of the new cemetery did so under the pretext that it was too far distant from the Church, but that their real purpose was to drive him from the parish in order that they might become trustees, with control over the administration of the finances of the congregation.

These dissatisfied parishioners did not confine themselves to criticism. They banded together and bought a piece of ground on Schuylkill Avenue between Eighth and Ninth Streets and extending about four squares up the side of Sharp Mountain as an opposition cemetery.

On April 4, 1852, Father Oberholzer then addressed a letter to the Right Reverend John Nepomucen Neumann, C.SS.R., D.D., who had been consecrated Bishop of the Diocese of Philadelphia, March 28, 1852, and who has, since his death on January 5, 1860, been declared Venerable by the Holy See, explaining the whole case to him. He resigned as pastor May 20, 1856, and went to Lebanon, Pa., where he was Pastor until August 6, 1858. He left for Europe August 14, 1858.

The Reverend Philip Wegmayr, who was born in Austria, succeeded him as pastor, May 22, 1856, and continued in charge until May 6, 1858. The first assistant Priest to be appointed to St. John's Church was the Reverend Matthias Joseph Meurer, who served during 1856 and 1857. Father Meurer was ordained Priest by Bishop Neumann in old St. Patrick's Church, Philadelphia, on August 10, 1856. He died at Glen Riddle, Delaware county, Pa., on March 7, 1894, and is interred there.

He then entered the Diocese of Fort Wayne and was appointed Pastor of St. John the Baptist's Church, Turkey Creek, Lake County, Indiana.

After Father Wegmayr left, an event happened that for the first and

last time in the history of the parish, cast its shadow on the fair reputation of St. John's congregation for a period of seven months.

The Bishop had written to the trustees of the opposition cemetery, demanding that the deed thereto be legally transferred to himself by name in trust for the congregation, and on their refusal of this just demand, he closed the church until they were disposed to comply therewith. The church was not used for public services from May 6, 1858 to December 14, 1858.

The Reverend Francis Louis Neufeld took charge of the congregation, December 14, 1858. He was ordained for the Diocese of Philadelphia in the old St. Patrick's Church, Philadelphia, November 28, 1858, by the Right Reverend John Nepomucen Neumann, C.SS.R., D.D., and soon after came to Pottsville. He remained here until he was appointed pastor of St. John the Baptist's Church, Haycock, Bucks County, in the month of December, 1862. He died February 24, 1891, in Lancaster and lies buried there in the old St. Joseph's Cemetery.

He was followed, in December, 1862, by the Reverend Francis Joseph Wachter, as pastor.

Father Wachter was born in the Austrian Tyrol. He was ordained for the Philadelphia Diocese in the Bishop's Domestic Chapel, Philadelphia, June 25, 1853, by the Right Reverend John N. Neumann, C.SS.R., D.D. He was the third of all the pastors of St. John's Church to be ordained for this Diocese from the old seminary at Eighteenth and Race Streets, where he completed his studies.

PURCHASE OF SITE FOR NEW CHURCH

Three sites for the proposed new church were under consideration, as follows: The first was the southeast corner lot at Tenth and Mahantongo Streets, 125 feet wide and extending up the hill 244 feet as far as Howard Avenue. An old stone house, which was afterward renovated and enlarged, and which today serves as the rectory, then stood on this lot. It was owned by Mr. Patterson, who demanded $10,000 for the whole property.

The second was the plot of ground between Ninth and Tenth Streets, on the north side of Mahantongo Street, across the street from the former, and extending down the hill to Norwegian Street. It was for sale for $6,000, but the congregation had to wait for three years before a clear title to it could be secured. It was then an ash pile.

The third was a certain piece of ground on the north side of Market Street, situated between Mr. Jacob Ulmer's house on the corner of Sixth and Market, and the two houses of Mr. Dentzer, on the corner of Seventh and Market Streets. These two houses were included in the sale price of $6,000.

Some of the parishioners were in favor of one site, while others favored another. Finally, in view of the fact that the parishioners desired to begin the erection of the new church with as little delay as possible, and in order to comply with the demands of the parishioners living in Yorkville, who complained that the property at Seventh and Market Streets was too far distant, and also with the requests of others who favored the first site, because the house, which stood on the lot, could be used as a rectory, the property on the south side of Tenth and Mahantongo Streets, was purchased from Mr. Patterson in 1865 for $10,000. The Right Reverend James Frederic Wood, D.D., Bishop of Philadelphia, decided also in favor of this site.

THE REVEREND HENRY JOHN STEINHAGEN

BUILDING OF NEW CHURCH

The work of digging the foundation for the new church was begun under Father Wachter's administration and, when in August, 1869, he was succeeded by Rev. Bernard A. Baumeister, the building of the church had advanced to the lowest brownstone course, just above the basement hall.

Father Baumeister was born January 6, 1843, in Muenster, Westphalia, Germany. Even while a student he was professor of music and philosophy in the old seminary at Eighteenth and Race until he was ordained together with seven others, among whom was the Reverend Edmond Francis Prendergast, now the Most Illustrious and the Most Reverend Metropolitan Archbishop of Philadelphia, in the Cathedral, Philadelphia, November 17, 1865, by the Right Reverend James F. Wood, D.D.

Father Baumeister worked energetically and untiringly for the rapid completion of the new church, taking up each month for this purpose a house to house collection among his parishioners.

On these visits he was accompanied, during vacation time in the summer, by a tall, thin, young man, Mr. Frederick W. Longinus, then a student at the old seminary at Eighteenth and Race Streets, Philadelphia.

In his arduous duties, Father Baumeister was ably supported by his assistant, the Reverend Herman Diederich, who was born in Mettinghousen, Westphalia, Germany. He was the second priest to be appointed as assistant pastor of St. John's Church, having been ordained Priest, May 14, 1871, by Bishop Bossmann, in Muenster. He died November 17, 1903, at Mahanoy City.

The new church was all but completed, when toward the end of August, 1872, Father Baumeister received his appointment for Holy Trinity Church, Philadelphia. He died at Decoursey in the Diocese of Covington, January 17, 1911, and is buried there.

Rev. Herman A. Depman who was born in Muenster, Westphalia, Germany, and ordained in the Cathedral Chapel, Philadelphia, February 2, 1864, by the Right Reverend James F. Wood, D.D., became pastor in August, 1872.

During his pastorate, Frederick Vogelgesang and Elizabeth Schmidt were the last couple to be married in the old church, on October, 13, 1872.

Three months after he came to Pottsville, on December 1, 1872, the new church was solemnly blessed by the Right Reverend Bishop Wood.

DESCRIPTION OF NEW CHURCH

The new church when finished was 160 feet long, 58 feet wide, with the naive 38 feet above the floor. It was built of conglomerate rock, hauled down from Sharp Mountain, on which near its base, the church stands. The entire front is built of Hummelstown brown-stone. It is in the Romanesque style, with the interior unobstructed by pillars, giving a clear view of the altar from every part of the church.

In the large sanctuary stands the high altar, built of wood, which lends itself readily to graceful and pretty decorations and these, on solemn occasions transform it, indeed, into a thing of beauty. Behind it, in the apse, are two elegant stained-glass windows made by Mr. Ross, of the Innsbruck Glass Institute; the one on the right representing Christ as the Good Shepherd, the other, on the left, depicting Him as "Behold, I stand at the door and knock."

On the altar are the statues of two adoring angels, one at each side.

In the apse, on the right, about fifteen feet from the floor of the

sanctuary is the statue of St. John the Baptist, and on the left, that of St. Aloysius.

On each side of the church are seven beautiful stained-glass windows made by William Derix, of Kevelaer, near Cologne, Germany, all but two portraying various events in the life of our dear Lord and His blessed Mother. Commencing with the one near the Blessed Virgin's altar and continuing around the church, they represent, with the exception of two, the following events in the life of our Savior Jesus Christ: 1. The Agony in the Garden, presented by the Sodality of the Immaculate Conception of the parish. 2. The Crowning with Thorns, a gift of the Rosary Society. 3. The Carrying of the Cross, donated by the parish. 4. The Crucifixion, bestowed by the St. Bernard's Beneficial Society. 5. The Death of St. Joseph, a memorial of Bernard Glunz. 6. The Baptism of Christ in the Jordan, presented by the St. John the Baptist's Beneficial Society. 7. The Return of the Prodigal Son, a donation of the Rev. Frederick W. Longinus, pastor. 8. The Anointing of the Feet of Jesus by Mary Magdalen in the House of Simon, presented by the members of the Sacred Heart League. 9. Christ Receiving the Little Children, a gift of the School Children, 1908. 10. Descent of the Holy Ghost upon the Apostles, an offering of John Kempel. 11. The Ascension, donated by the parishioners. 12. The Resurrection, a donation of the Parishioners. 13. The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple, bestowed by the Altar Society. 14. The Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple, a gift of the Altar Society.

Beautiful and instructive paintings by the celebrated artist, Lamprecht, of Germany, adorn the walls and the ceiling. The one above the high altar representing the Coronation of the Blessed Virgin, Mother of God; to the right of which are paintings of Our Lord and St. Peter; the Annunciation is depicted above the Blessed Virgin's altar and the Nativity of the Christ Child is delineated above St. Joseph's altar.

In the nave, near the sanctuary, high above the heads of devout worshippers, a large painting of the Assumption of our Blessed Mother can be seen, while in the nave, in the rear of the church, there is a fine representation of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

On the side walls of the church between the windows are to be seen higher up large paintings of the twelve apostles, almost nine feet high, while beneath them are the stations of the cross in their great Michigan walnut frames, each ten feet two inches high.

From the center of the nave, where there is a large cross painted, on the four ends of which are the symbols of the four Evangelists: an angel in human shape for St. Matthew; a lion for St. Mark; an ox for St. Luke, and an eagle for St. John, hangs suspended a massive chandelier with many high-powered electric bulbs which, by means of a powerful reflector above them, brighten the interior.

Light is also furnished by seven gas brackets which are attached to the side walls, each containing two Welsbach mantles.

These plain gas jets formerly furnished the only light in the body of the Church. At night, during services, the worshippers in the middle aisle could read but with difficulty. There are now also two standards well toward the front, each holding four 100-watt nitrogen lamps.

The sanctuary is lit up by two large, artistic electroliers with many small bulbs, which produce a pleasing effect; six 100-watt nitrogen lamps distributed high up around the apse, flood it with their bright beams, while two gas brackets, one on each side wall near the altar railing complete the lighting of the sanctuary.

In the rear of the interior is the large gallery holding the grand organ

built by Hock and Hastings, of Boston, and installed May 29, 1889. It is a two manual organ with independent pedal. Each manual has twelve full stops, and the pedal six stops, of which three stops are 16 ft. stops, which give the organ a tremendous bass. The pipes, big and small, number 2075. Besides above mentioned stops, it has six mechanical and a swell stop. In all, it contains thirty-seven stops.

The singing has been executed since 1904 by a male choir of twenty-two voices, according to the Motu Proprio of Pope Pius X. The school boys are also instructed in Gregorian chant.

Professor Leo Schwarze has been organist since April 21, 1875. During all these years he has fulfilled his duty capably and with fidelity.

Two confessionals stand in the rear of the church, one on each side of the main entrance. In the vestibule, upstairs, opposite the main entrance, there is a beautiful group of the Pieta, and to the right and left, statues of St. Barbara and St. Anthony.

The exterior front of the church is plain. There is a large central window, above which there can be seen a niche for a statue. On each side of the central window there is also a large window admitting light to the gallery and upper stairways. Below these are two smaller windows lighting up the foot of the lower stairways.

The large central double door is surmounted by a brown-stone cross. There are, besides, three side entrances, two on Tenth Street, one near the front and the other near the rear of the church, and one near the front on the side toward the rectory.

Two standards at the top of the outside double stairway, leading up to the church from Mahantongo Street, cast their bright rays dispelling the darkness of night and lighting up the whole central entrance to the sacred edifice.

The exterior of the church cannot and does not lay claim to architectural beauty. The outside appearance must have been forgotten or, perhaps, considered in the drawing of the plans, of minor importance.

Nevertheless, there is a dignity, a grandeur, a solidity, in its broad, massive lines that make one incline to the opinion, that it will be still used for Divine service, when many of the churches in Pottsville, altho subsequently erected, will have been leveled to the ground and been necessitated to make way for new and more modern houses of worship.

The broad square tower which rises high above the central front of the church, contains a belfry, which houses four big bells, which, at half-past four o'clock Christmas morning, especially, send their glad tidings of joy over the city and beyond—over hill and valley, inviting the people to come and adore.

The members of the congregation are justly proud of their church, and of the beautifying thereof, which has been accomplished from time to time and will continue, thru their appreciative and generous co-operation with their pastors.

On June 24, 1873, the old school house was closed, after twenty-three years of service since September, 1850. Peter Meyer was the last teacher.

THE BASEMENT SCHOOL

In November, 1873, school classes were resumed in the basement of the new church, with seventy-five pupils in attendance. This basement school was conducted until June 27, 1895, after which the partitions were removed and the basement of the church changed into a hall. Mr. John Ziegler taught here from November 1, 1873, to June 27, 1874. From September, 1874, to June 25, 1875, the Misses Dorothy and Dilla Seiling and Matilda Giefel were the teachers.

THE OLD CHURCH, ERECTED 1842

It is Father Depmann to whom the congregation owes a debt of gratitude for having brought the Sisters of Christian Charity from Wilkes-Barre to Pottsville in 1875.

FIRST SISTERS

When on September 2, 1875, school was reopened in the basement with 125 pupils in attendance, it had been divided into four classrooms, each presided over by one of these teaching Sisters, with Sister Cyrilla as Superioress. It was the fourth parochial school in the United States, of which this religious order of nuns took charge, after coming to this country from Germany, the others being located in Wilkes-Barre, Scranton and Williamsport.

What a blessing for St. John's Parish when they entered upon the duties of forming the impressionable minds and affectionate hearts of the children entrusted to their care!

The sisters first lived in Mr. James Mudey's house, 1320 West Norwegian Street, where they remained until September 1, 1881, they moved to the house built for them at 912 Howard Avenue, across the street from the school.

During Father Depmann's pastorate, he had first as assistant the Reverend Frederick Schlebbe, who was born in Telgte, Westphalia, Germany, and when he was transferred to another parish, the pastor received the Reverend Anthony Nathe, who was born in Maschede, Westphalia, Germany, both capable and zealous priests.

Father Nathe became distinguished among the German congregations for his beautiful singing and his oratorical ability as a preacher. He died November 17, 1902, at Bally, Berks County, Pa.

Father Depmann had had the honor to complete the building of the new church, but he had also to shoulder the burden of paying off much of the debt contracted in its erection.

He found this task a burden heavier than he could carry. The annual income of the parish became so low at this time that it no longer sufficed to meet the running expenses and to pay off the interest on the various loans.

Hence there was no possibility of reducing the total amount of the debt, it continued increasing and, in the midst of such discouragement, Father Depmann requested the Most Reverend James Frederic Wood, D.D., who had been made Metropolitan Archbishop March 15, 1875, to accept his resignation, which he finally did February 1, 1878.

Father Depmann afterward joined the Order of the Friars Minor, and was known in religion as Father Boniface. He died suddenly during the services on Holy Thursday morning, April 4, 1912, in St. Joseph's Church of the Franciscan Fathers, Cleveland, Ohio.

On the same day Rev. Frederick William Longinus, who was then pastor of St. Maurice's Church, Ashland, was appointed to take charge of St. John the Baptist Church, Pottsville. He still has in his possession the letter of appointment which reads as follows:

Diocese of Philadelphia, Cathedral, Logan Square, Philadelphia, February 1st, 1878.

Rev. Frederick Longinus,
Rev'd Dear Sir:

We hereby appoint you pastor at the Church of St. John the Baptist in Pottsville. You will please enter on your duties without delay. I am

Very respectfully,

Your Obt. Servt. in Christ,
✠ James Frederic,
Archbishop of Philadelphia.

Father Longinus received this letter on February 5th, and on February 7, 1878, he came to Pottsville and took charge of the parish.

The Reverend Frederick William Longinus was born on March 25, 1847, the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in the town of Telgte, Westphalia, Germany. His father, Christopher Longinus, followed the trades of machinist and locksmith. His mother's name was Catharine Bisping, both born and raised in Telgte. He was baptized March 26, 1847, by the Reverend Bernard Schaten, in St. Clement's Church, Telgte. When he was six years of age, he attended one of the State schools of the town, there being no parochial school, until he was twelve years old. From his twelfth to his eighteenth year he attended a private school, the Rectorate School, in Telgte, conducted by Joseph Knickenberg. From September 1, 1865, to July 27, 1868, on which day he graduated from the institution, he was sent to the "Gymnasium" or High School in the city of Muenster, Germany. There, as today, the people in Germany, who desired to give their sons or daughters a higher education, had to pay for their tuition. In our own country, however, the tendency at least in the cities, is to provide facilities for a free higher education of the young people of both sexes at the expense of pupils in the primary grades, who because of an insufficient number of public schools, cannot be accommodated.

He received the Sacrament of Confirmation from the Right Reverend Doctor Bossmann, Auxiliary Bishop of Muenster, in St. Clement's Church, Telgte, in June, 1860.

He was accepted for the Diocese of Philadelphia in April, 1868, while still a scholar at the High School.

On September 5, 1868, after having braved the dangers of the ocean, he arrived safely in New York and the same day took the train for Philadelphia. He entered the old seminary at 18th and Race Streets, September 8, 1868, where he remained until the new seminary was opened at Overbrook October 15, 1871. He was called to ordination together with the Reverend Patrick J. Egan, of Heckschersville, Schuylkill county, Penna., on December 15, 1871, three months after the new seminary had been opened, by the Very Rev. James O'Connor, D.D., then rector of the seminary, but who, on August 20, 1876, was consecrated Titular Bishop of Dibon in the Seminary Chapel at Overbrook by the Right Reverend Patrick John Ryan, DD., LL.D., Titular Bishop of Tricomia and Coadjutor-Bishop, with the right of succession to the Most Reverend Peter Richard Kenrick, D.D., Archbishop of St. Louis. Bishop O'Connor's consecration was the first and only Episcopal consecration ever held in St. Charles' Seminary, at Overbrook, Pa. On October 2, 1885, he became Bishop of Omaha. Bishop James O'Connor was a younger brother of Bishop Michael O'Connor, first Bishop of Pittsburgh.

Schuylkill county, as well as Heckschersville, shares the honor of having one of its sons to be the first ordained from the new seminary at Overbrook, Penna.

They were ordained together and the first to be ordained in the semi-

nary chapel of Overbrook December 23, 1871, by the Right Reverend James F. Wood, D.D., Bishop of Philadelphia.

Father Longinus enjoys the further distinction of having been the first student of St. Charles' Seminary, Overbrook, to receive tonsure all the minor and major orders, including the priesthood.

He celebrated his first Solemn Mass on Christmas morning, 1871, in St. Boniface's Church, Philadelphia. On January 2, 1872, he received his first appointment as assistant rector of St. Boniface's Church, Philadelphia, and remained here until June 17, 1872, when he was appointed temporary pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Easton, to take the place of the Reverend Hubert Schick.

Father Schick had been at the same time appointed pastor pro tempore of Saint Paul's Church, Reading, to take charge during the absence of the Reverend George Bornemann, pastor of the Reading church, who had 1872, when he returned an assistant rector to St. Boniface's Church, Philaof St. Maurice's Church, Ashland, to succeed the Reverend Matthias Joseph Meurer.

There he labored with success until on February 1, 1878, five years later, he was appointed pastor of St. John the Baptist's Church, Pottsville.

When he entered on the duties of his pastorate here he found a debt of $22,000, including one and one-half year's interest on loans resting on the parish.

The new church then contained nothing but four bare walls, three altars, the sanctuary railing, the pews and an old organ.

This was enough to discourage an older man than Father Longinus, but with his characteristic energy and perseverance he set to work to increase the church revenues. He it was who introduced the successful monthly collections into the parish, always distributing the envelopes in church the week before, and succeeded through this and other means, ordinary and extraordinary, not only in gradually paying off the old debts but in making and cancelling many new loans, which he had to make from time to time, to undertake and complete the necessary improvements on the church property for the congregation.

IMPROVEMENTS OF THE CHURCH PROPERTY

Father Longinus was not satisfied with merely paying off the debts. He saw that many improvements were needed. The rectory had to be enlarged, the church had to be frescoed, bigger stations of the cross were required to cover the bare walls, statues had to be bought to help fill the many empty places and make the church more attractive, new lights had to be put in, a new and adequate heating system had to be installed, a Sisters' house had to be built and a new school had to be erected to afford sanitary surroundings for the children, etc.

Hence we see him in 1879, the next year, beginning to have a new addition put in the rear of the old rectory, consisting of a dining room and kitchen on the first floor and two sleeping apartments and a bath room on the second floor at a cost of $850. It was built by Messrs. Christian Schlitzer, of the parish and Luke Gepphart and finished November 29, 1879.

The kitchen and dining room had been formerly in the basement, but in 1879 the basement was flooded forcing him to build.

In 1880 the statue named the Pieta, representing Christ lying in the lap of His Blessed Mother after having been taken down from the cross, and which stands upstairs in the vestibule of the church surrounded by a railing, was bought from Frederick Pustet & Co. for $140

The Sisters' house, of which there was a pressing need, was begun by

CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

John Parton, a builder of Pottsville, on May 1, 1881, and completed August 27, 1881, the price being $3,750.

The tin roof on the church was leaking in many places. Hence the slate roof which, to this day covers the church and has been in need of little or no repair, was put on by John Keever, of Reading, September 7, 1882, for $985.

The house at 1005 Howard avenue was for sale. Father Longinus thought it would make a comfortable and convenient residence for a sexton. The price $800, which was asked, showed it to be a bargain. Accordingly he bought it May 4, 1883, from Mr. Charles Kimmel, of Pottsville.

The old stations which had been transferred from the old to the new chuch were entirely too small; altogether out of proportion with the dimensions of that large sacred edifice. Father Longinus purchased new Stations of the Cross from Meyer & Co., of Munich, Germany, for $750. Meanwhile Mr. Max Oestreich, of the parish, built the massive Michigan walnut frames for them at a cost of $1,000. They were put in place September 10, 1884. They are 10 feet 2 inches in height.

The interior walls were bare making the church look empty. Father Longinus gave the contract for the frescoing and painting the interior of the church to Muer & Lamprecht, the latter a celebrated German artist, while they were engaged in painting various churches in this country.

How well and thoroughly Mr. Lamprecht did his work at the time you well know, as all his paintings still remain to this day, giving evidence of his wonderful art. He worked long and painstakingly, assisted by Mr. Muer, but the results were well worth the effort. They finished their work September 27, 1885. The frescoing and the painting of the pictures cost $2,960.

On October 20, 1885, Father Longinus united William Haensler and Catharine Oxenfeld in marriage. They were the first couple to obtain a marriage license, No. 1, in Schuylkill county after it became a law in the State of Pennsylvania, necessary to obtain such.

The exterior of the church at that time had a squatty appearance, as it was minus a tower. He thought to improve the exterior. A tower 22 feet square and 42 feet high was therefore added to the church for $13,250. The walls thereof on every side are 3½ feet thick. 65,000 bricks, 150 tons of brownstone from Hummelstown, Pa., and 85 barrels of cement were used in constructing it.

Mr. Martin Otterbein, a parishioner, superintended the work.

It was finished November 10, 1886. The top of the tower is 120 feet above the foundation wall.

One of the days of joy long to be remembered in the history of the parish was the day of the blessing of the four big melodious bells. McShain & Co., of Baltimore, were the makers thereof. They cost $1,950.

The Most Reverend Patrick John Ryan, D.D., LL.D., Archbishop of Philadelphia, and Metropolitan of the Province of Philadelphia, on September 27, 1886, blessed the four bells that had been placed outside in front of the church. He was assisted on the occasion by the Reverend Bernard Korves as deacon, and Rev. Herman Diedrich as subdeacon. Rev. Anthony Nathe preached a masterly sermon in German, explaining the meaning of the bells and their use in the Catholic church. The bells received the following names: the largest, weighing 5,035 pounds, was named St. John the Baptist, it is rung on Sundays and holydays for High Mass and on other solemn occasions; the second, of 3,800 pounds, the Blessed Virgin Mary, it is used in ringing the Angelus at 12 M.; the third, of 2,900 pounds, St. Bernard, it is rung only in unison with the others; the fourth, of 2,500 pounds, St. Aloysius, it is used for tolling at funerals and during the week for low Masses. When

on Sundays and holydays and on solemn occasions all four bells are ringing they can be heard a few miles away.

Fifty, both men and women volunteered to act as sponsors for each bell, and they expressed their appreciation for being accepted for this honor by contributing a donation toward the payment of the sponsored bells. The collection taken up on this occasion amounted to $1,826, including donations.

During the spring and summer months of the year 1888, Father Longinus was engaged in the erection of a wall and coping on the Mahantongo and Tenth streets sides of the new church property. It cost $812 and was completed by Mr. Albert Rehnert, a member of the parish, September 12, 1888.

The view of the front of the church property from Mahantongo street was much improved by it.

Shortly afterwards a new organ was ordered from Hook & Hastings, of Boston. The contract cost was $5,400. It was installed May 29, 1889, the same day on which the fearful tragedy of the Johnstown flood, caused by a break in the dam, occurred. A description of the organ has been given before. It suffices here to add that it has a pneumatic action which renders the touch as soft as that of a piano—an advantage appreciated by all organists.

It was formally opened by a concert the same evening; during which renowned organists tested its full capabilities, assisted by a choir of almost one hundred men and women filling the church with harmonious music and beautiful singing that delighted and thrilled the audience. The collection on this evening netted $1,556.

Up to the year 1904 a mixed choir composed of soprano, alto, first base and second base voices, sang Cecilian music with credit to themselves and their professor, Mr. Leo Schwarze. He was, however, never much in favor of solo singing. He has been organist since April 21, 1875, and during these many years his has been a faithful and capable service.

After the "Motu proprio" of His Holiness, Pope Pius X. on church singing, he introduced the male choir, consisting of 1st tenor, 2nd tenor, 1st base and 2nd base, twenty-two men in all, who render the Gregorian chant which is so appropriate and devotional.

The young men and young ladies, who were members of the former mixed choir, and the men in the male choir, who have so generously volunteered their services in coming to weekly rehearsals and in singing on Sundays and Holydays deserve the sincere gratitude of the entire congregation for the sacrifices they made of their time and pleasure in preserving and promoting sacred, devotional and elevating song in the parish.

In 1889 Mr. Andrew Baumgarten, of the parish, built a third story on the parochial residence, consisting of four sleeping apartments, because the accommodations were inadequate, especially during the Forty Hours' Devotion, when so many Priests come to assist from far and near. He finished the addition August 24, 1889, for $1,839.

The church had ever been cold in winter, due to the fact that the chimney was too small to afford a good draft, thereby filling the church with sulphurous vapors, and also because the large windows were too close admitting much cold air.

Mr. Edward Lear, of Pottsville, was given the contract to install a steam heating system in the house, which was to heat both the house and the church at the same time. It consists of two big boilers located in the basement of the rectory. They were ready August 9, 1890, and cost $1,963.

There had for some time been urgent need of a new school. Father Longinus had been considering certain sites when he was informed that

the five lots behind the new church on the south side of Tenth and Howard avenue could be bought from the Society of Friends. He at once got in communication with a representative of their Society, and after negotiations in which the court ratified the sale, it was purchased by Father Longinus from Mr. Samuel Griscom, trustee for the Society of Friends, on April 16, 1892, for $2,400.

November 6, 1892, the Golden Jubilee of the foundation of the church was fittingly celebrated in connection with the Forty Hours' Devotion.

One of the Pottsville papers, of which I have but a clipping, describes it under the title of "The Golden Jubilee Closed." The following clergy were present: The Reverends Augustin J. Schulte, professor at St. Charles' Seminary; Anthony Nathe, Ashland; William A. Duffy, Pottsville; George F. Michel, Reading; Joseph J. Nerz, St. Clair; Herman Diederich, Mahanoy City; John A. Seimetz, Catasauqua; Anthony T. Schuettelhoefer, Shenandoah; Aegidius Mersch, Minersville; Nicholas Forve, Hazleton, and Bernard Korves, of Philadelphia.

It also gives the names of the male and female members of the congregation who had the honor of belonging to the church for fifty years.

1. The male members are: Francis Altstatt, Henry Ackerman, Francis Reith, Anthony Redelberger, H. J. Hendler, Joseph Reinhart, John Kempel, Franz Schmeltzer, Fritz Klitsch, Clement Ackerman, John F. Becker, Leonard Scheibelhut, George Yeasted, Michael Buehler, Henry Ney.

2. Those of the fair sex who also took part in the procession were: Mrs. Francis Altstatt, Mrs. H. J. Hendler, Mrs. Anthony Redelberger, Mrs. Kempel, Mrs. Frederick Klitsch, Mrs. Henry Ackerman, Mrs. Lenon, Mrs. Hellenthal, Mrs. Henry Hornung and Mrs. Elizabeth Reith.*

A little more than two years later, during which frequent collections were taken up for the erection of a new school, Mr. Matthew Griesbaum, on August 11, 1894, began excavating and building the foundation wall which was seventy-four feet long and seventy-six feet wide. He completed this work, which cost $1,390.00, September 28, 1894.

The following year was one of great activity for the whole congregation. Father Longinus had submitted the plans for the new school which had been drawn by the distinguished architect of Pottsville, Mr. Francis X. Reilly, to different builders for their bids.

When the bids were all handed in, it was discovered, on examination, that Mr. Daniel McGurl, of Pottsville, a contractor and builder, was the lowest bidder. He, accordingly, was awarded the contract for the building of the new school.

The corner-stone was laid on April 21, 1895, by His Excellency, the Most Reverend Francis Satolli, D.D., Titular Archbishop of Lepanto, and at the time Apostolic Delegate to the United States, who later became a Cardinal Priest and still later a Cardinal Bishop.

In the corner-stone was deposited a sealed bottle, the air in which had been ratified by exposure to the heat. This bottle contained one $5, $2.50 and $1 gold pieces; 50c, 25c and 10c in silver, and one nickel 5c piece. There is also a piece of parchment enclosed on which the Very Reverend Monsignor Joseph Schroeder, Ph. D., D.D., had written in Latin a record of the cheif dignitaries and officers of the Church, of the Nation and of the State of Penna. This record, written in Latin, reads as follows:

INTERIOR, ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST'S CHURCH

Quod . Ad . Maiorem Dei . Gloriam
Cedat
Rei . Catholicæ . Et . Americanæ
Bene . Vertat
Juventuti . In . Materno . Sinu . Ecclesiæ
Educandæ
A . Grassante . Indifferentismi . Peste
Custodiendæ . Conducat
Avitam . Fidem . Pietatem
Munificentiam
Parochiæ . Germano-Americanæ . Ad
S . Jo . Bapt
In . Oppido . Pottsvillensi
Seris . Nepotibus . Commendet
Auspice . Et . Patrono . S . Josepho
Leone XIII . Petr . Sedem . Tenente
Francisco . Satolli . Archepiscopo
Naupactensi
Primi . Legati . Apostolici . Munus
Obeunte
Patricio . Joanne . Ryan . Archiepiscopo
Philadelphiensi
Grover . Cleveland . Fœderatarum
Civitatum
Americæ . Septent . Præside
Daniele . Hastings . Status . Pennsyl-
vaniæ . Gubernatore
Frederico . Longinus . Ecclesiae . H
Rectore
Idem . Illmmus . Ac . Rmmus . Sanctæ
Sedis . Legatus
Comitante . Et . Sacram . Orationem
Habente
Josepho . Schroeder . Leoni XIII . Ab
Intimis . Cubicalis
In . Universitate . Catholica
Washingtoniensi.
S. Theologiæ . Professore
Adstante . Cleri Populique . Frequen-
tisima . Corona
Scholæ . H. Curialis . Lapidem
Fundamenti.
Solemni . Ritu . Demisit
XI. Kalendas . Maii . Anno . Christiano
MDCCCVC.
Quo . Leo XIII. "Longinqua . Oceani
Spatia . Animo . Trajiciens"
Missis . Encyclicis . Litteris
Novo . Argumento . Comprobavit
Paternam . De . Scholis . Catholicis
Sollicitudinem
Sapientiam . Conspicuam . Voluntatem
Eximiam
Erga . "Americanum . Validum . Juventa
Genus".

TRANSLATION

That it may accrue to the greater glory of God, and profit Catholicity and America and conduce to the educating of youth in the maternal bosom of the church and shielding it from the prevailing pest of indifferentism, that it may attest to its latest descendants the ancestral faith, piety and munificence of the German-American Parish of St. John the Baptist in the City of Pottsville, under the auspices and patronage of St. Joseph, Leo XIII being Pope, Francis Satolli, Archbishop of Lepanto being the Apostolic Delegate, Patrick John Ryan, Archbishop of Philadelphia, Grover Cleveland, President of the United States, Daniel Hastings, Governor of Pennsylvania, Frederick Longinus, Rector of this Church, the said Most Illustrious and Most Reverend Delegate of the Holy See, accompanied by the preacher, Joseph Schroeder, Private Chamberlain of Leo XIII, Professor of Sacred Theology in the Catholic University of Washington, in the presence of a vast throng of clergy and people with solemn rite placed the corner-stone of this parish school on the 21st of April, 1895, in which year Leo XIII, crossing in spirit the vast spaces of the ocean approved with new arguments in his encyclical letters his paternal care for Catholic schools and his notable wisdom and high regard for the strong young American Race.

It is signed by all the priests who attended the corner-stone laying and contains also all the names of those who had contributed on that occasion.

Above the corner-stone and between the bricks, wrapped in asbestos, is a bottle containing copies of the "Pottsville Republican," "Pottsville Journal" and "Pottsville Chronicle," describing the corner-stone laying of the new school.

The collection on this day amounted to $2,254.00.

It was a day long to be remembered by the devoted members of St. John's parish, because the masterful address which His Excellency delivered then in Pottsville, marked a new epoch in the history of the Catholic Parochial School throughout the United States. This address, delivered in Latin, was translated into English, given to the editor of the "Evening Chronicle," a daily newspaper of Pottsville, and sent to all the Catholic Bishops and to the editors of all the Catholic papers in this country.

This address on the Parochial School heartened its champions to renewed efforts in its behalf and cleared away the mists of misunderstanding among some members of the hierarchy and clergy by presenting to them clearly and without equivocation the whole case of the Parochial School, together with the fundamental principles that necessitate its existence and guide its destinies.

It was the beginning of a brighter day for the Catholic School System in the United States.

A full account of the corner-stone laying of the new school can be read in the "Evening Chronicle," of Pottsville, Monday, April 22nd, 1895.

Work was begun on the new school building April 22nd, 1895, and such was the rapid rate of progress that by September 5th, 1895, it was finished. It cost $21,338.00, exclusive of the cost of the excavating and laying of the foundation wall.

Mr. McGurl, the builder, had done his work well and quickly.

On September 15th, 1895, the new building was solemnly blessed by the Right Reverend Leo Haid, O. S. B., D.D., Titular Bishop of Messene and Vicar Apostolic of North Carolina and Abbot of Mary-Help Abbey, Belmont, N. C.

Bishop Haid himself delivered an eloquent sermon in German, during the Solemn Mass that followed the dedication.

The collection on this occasion was $475.00.

Read the account of the dedication of the new Parochial School in the "Pottsville Republican," Monday, September 16th, 1859.

The new school building is a two-story brick structure, with both the front entrance on Howard Avenue and the trimmings of Hummelstown brown-stone. It contains eight large class rooms, each thirty-five feet long by twenty-five feet wide. Each of the rooms has windows on two sides, admitting plenty of light from the left side and rear of the pupils. It is still modern, despite its twenty-two years of service; it is sanitary and safe, with an excellent hot-water system that makes the building comfortably warm in winter.

The members of the parish may well be proud of their achievement, the result of generous co-operation with their zealous and devoted pastor.

Father Longinus has ever been a staunch defender of the parochial school. His school at present is a model one. It was built because German-speaking Catholics have always been aware of the fact that to have a religious nation, we must begin to imbue the minds of the young with sound religious principles. These principles are nowhere so thoroughly and so unremittingly inculcated as in the Catholic Parochial Schools.

Great credit belongs to Father Longinus and the good, self-sacrificing and efficient Sisters in charge for the high standing of St. John's School to-day. Laying aside all questions of superiority, it is equal to any in the city.

Catholics are not hostile to the free institutions established and maintained by State and Municipal appropriations, of which their taxes compose no insignificant share, nor do they deem them incompetent of teaching all branches of useful knowledge, but they do consider them incompetent to give their own children that religious knowledge and training which they need, as a soldier of Jesus Christ and a member of His one and only true Church, to fight manfully the battle of life against the three enemies of the soul, the world, the flesh and the devil.

The Catholic Parochial School also forms children into Christian men and women and prepares them to do their duty in life to themselves, to those about them, their country, their church, and attain their eternal destiny in the life to come.

The new school was opened September 5, 1895, with an enrollment of 350 children.

On December 29th, 1896, Father Longinus celebrated the Silver Jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood, which had occurred December 23rd, 1871, in the chapel of St. Charles' Seminary, Overbrook.

This date was decided upon in order to permit of his brother priests participating in the ceremonies.

The reverend jubilarian celebrated the Solemn Mass, assisted by the Reverend Bernard Korves, rector of St. Louis' Church, Philadelphia, as deacon, and by the Reverend Joseph J. Nerz, rector of St. Ignatius' Church, Philadelphia, as sub-deacon. The Reverend Augustin J. Schulte, of the Seminary of St. Charles Borromeo, Overbrook, was master of ceremonies. The sermon was delivered by the Very Reverend Monsignor Joseph Schroeder, Ph. D., D.D., of the Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C.

The congregation joyfully participated in this celebration, presenting their beloved pastor with a generous purse of $1100.00, which he donated to the church. The various parochial societies also observed the great event.

On August 6th, 1898, a new wing which was being added to the Sisters' house on Howard Avenue was completed by Messrs. Francis Breininger and John Hummel, members of the parish, at a cost of $1,047.00.

The need thereof had become imperative, owing to the increase in the number of teaching Sisters, for whom the existing accomodations had become inadequate.

The plaster on the interior walls of the church had for some years been cracking and falling off in many places. It became necessary to renovate the interior. Mr. Barthold Imhoff, of Reading, undertook the work of repairing and painting the walls. He finished it September 2nd, 1902. The contract price was $2,300.00, and it was worth it, as he did his work with a thoroughness and an artistic touch that is seldom duplicated to-day.

In the same year, on November 20th, two new stained glass windows were placed in the Sanctuary behind the main altar. The subjects chosen for these two windows were most appropriate in the Sanctuary, the one representing Christ as the Good Shepherd, and the other, "Behold, I stand at the Door and Knock," for where is Christ more clearly shown to be our good Shepherd and our Guest eagerly knocking for admittance than in receiving Holy Communion, the heavenly Food of the soul?

They were made by Mr. Ross, of the Innsbruck Glass Institute, and cost $358.00.

On December 31, 1902, two lots were bought from the Judge Walker Estate for $750.00. They are situated on the northwest corner of Tenth and Howard Avenue, with a frontage thereon of forty feet and extending up the hill along Tenth Street a distance of two hundred feet.

It was a good investment. At present they are used as a garden.

On July 22nd, 1907, Sheets & Daddow, an electrical firm of Pottsville,

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST SCHOOL

installed the electric fixtures in the church for $294.00. The change wrought in the lighting up of the interior of the church by electricity after using only gas for so many years, was wonderful.

New windows were urgently needed, as the old ones seemed to be getting looser each year and admitting more cold air in winter. Father Longinus therefore contracted with Mr. William Derix, a celebrated church window maker, of Kevelaer, near Cologne, Germany, for fourteen large stained glass windows, each twenty feet high by four and a half feet wide, at a cost of $5,256.00, including the tariff. They were put in their respective frames by September 8th, 1908, and have won favorable criticism from all who have ever beheld them. To look at them, not merely with the critic's eye, but with devotion, recalls to mind the sacred mysteries of our faith, fosters feelings of piety and raises the mind and heart to God.

They have already been described, when writing about the interior of the church.

Many members of the parish had passed away during the existence of St. John's parish and been buried in one of its three cemeteries. The lots were slowly but surely being occupied by the departed as their last resting place. Father Longinus, with an eye to the future, after looking at various places outside the town limits, for Pottsville became a third-class city in 1914, decided in favor of making a bid for the property adjoining No. 2 cemetery in Yorkville, on the side toward Twenty-first Street.

It was a wise move, for no better place could have been selected. He consulted Mr. Samuel Kaercher, since deceased, and with his kind and willing assistance was enabled to make a satisfactory settlement with the many heirs. The property, with a frontage of one hundred and thirty-five feet on the south side of Mahantongo Street and six hundred and twenty feet deep, was purchased from Mr. Charles Ebert and the Wood Estate for $2,763.31.

Thus was a perplexing problem gratifyingly settled for many a year to come. On May 28th, 1912, Father Longinus began to take up collections occasionally for a "Cemetery Fund," the purpose thereof being to keep the grass cut on the lots of the cemeteries. This fund now amounts to $2,300.00, the interest on the principal perpetually to be used for the purpose mentioned. The wooden fence surrounding the cemetery in Yorkville was at this time in need of repairs and a good coat of paint. Father Longinus thought it would improve the appearance of the cemetery and the new addition, if a cement wall would be built along the entire front on Mahantongo Street.

The work of tearing down the fence and laying the foundation of the cement wall was begun on June 15th, 1912.

Mr. John Pappert, a member of the parish, laid the foundation, consisting of cinders, stone, sand and cement, three and a half feet deep and one foot wide. On this he built the cement wall, four feet high, one foot wide and two hundred and seventy feet long.

He likewise put the solid but also artistic iron gates that close the entrance to the cemetery in their places.

He also put up the curb of Wyoming brown-stone and built a two-foot gutter in the street of stone from Sharp Mountain along the entire front of the cemetery, which is two hundred and seventy feet long. Afterwards he graded the road in the cemetery and, commencing at the top, he built a cement gutter, one hundred and thirty-five feet long, on each side of this road that gently slopes toward the heavy wrought-iron entrance gate. The old water motor having for some time proven troublesome, an electric motor was installed on October 12, 1912. It has always given the best of service. Mr. William Dimmerling, a parishioner, completed the work of laying the four-foot-wide cement pavement on Mahan-

tongo Street along the entire front of the cemetery, a distance of two hundred and seventy feet on August 31st, 1914.

What an improvement! was the exclamation heard on all sides when this work was finished. Since then the inhabitants of Yorkville have begun to lay down pavements or to tear up the old to make way for the new.

The Yorkville cemetery, even as it stands to-day and especially with the contemplated improvements, will afford the members of the parish cause for sincerest gratitude to their far-sighted pastor and for just pride because of its neat and trim appearance.

Father Longinus heard that the property adjoining the rectory at 911 Mahantongo Street was for sale, and ever on the alert for anything that would benefit the parish, as he saw the advantages that would accrue from buying it, he at once negotiated for its purchase.

He saw that the acquisition of this property would enable him or his successor to enlarge the rectory at some future time, while in the rear of the property the Sisters' house could then never be shut off from light and air. To think was to act, and accordingly the property was bought from the Misses Hannah and Emma Leib for $3,400.00 on September 21st, 1914.

These and many minor improvements did Father Longinus make during his almost forty years' administration of St. John the Baptist's parish, in all, aggregating $135,000.00, exclusive of the $22,000.00 debt which he found when he took charge and liquidated not many years after he administered the affairs of the congregation.

Nor, in the midst of all this building, was he the less concerned about the spiritual welfare of his flock. From the beginning he was ever zealous in administering the Sacraments to the dying, in catechizing the little ones, in preaching the word of God to his congregation, mindful of the words of St. Paul to Timothy: "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, entreat, rebuke in all patience and doctrine."—2 Tim., IV-2.

VARIOUS SOCIETIES AFFILIATED WITH ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

When Father Longinus entered upon his duties as pastor of St. John's, February 6th, 1878, he found various societies which had been introduced into the parish by his predecessors.

They were the Sodality of the Immaculate Conception, for the single young ladies of the parish. It was organized during the first mission in 1865, but affiliated with the Roman congregation in the year 1871. In the beginning it included also the young men, but these became fewer in number until only the young ladies remained. Miss Mary L. Ackermann was the first President, while her successor in office today is Miss Amelia Zeller. It numbers at present one hundred and seventy-five members and comprises the majority of the young ladies of the parish. They receive Holy Communion in a body every first Sunday of the month, meet for recitation of the holy Office every second Tuesday of the month and are exhorted to cherish and practise a special devotion toward the blessed Virgin, their heavenly Mother. The Sodality is or should be the most important society of every parish.

The Altar Society, which was organized by the Reverend Father Neufeld during his pastorate, which lasted from December, 1858, to December, 1862, included men and women among its members. Its purpose, at least in the beginning and before the Sisters came, was to decorate the altars, to purchase or obtain flowers for the same, to buy vestments and altar-linens, to visit sick members, to attend the funeral of a deceased member and to have a Requiem Mass sung for each departed member.

Some of the members of this society, in the early days of its existence,

worked hard and faithfully for the congregation without any compensation, cleaning and dusting the church, scrubbing the floors, washing altar-linens and doing many other things that are the duties of a sacristan and sexton.

Mrs. Mary Dimler was its first President and Mrs. Catharine Bickert the first Secretary and Treasurer, while at the present time Miss Cecelia Ackermann is President and Mrs. Elizabeth Gottschall Secretary and Treasurer. It has to-day about three hundred members.

The Rosary Society was also organized during the first mission in 1865, and from its inception has ever been in a flourishing state. Both men and women belong to it, the latter forming the vast majority.

The purpose of it is to encourage each member to recite one decade of the rosary daily.

Its present membership is over four hundred. The first President was Mrs. Marion Ackermann. Mrs. Wendelin Zeller is to-day and has been for many years President.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society was organized by the Reverend Father Nathe in 1876. Mr. Francis Oxenfeld was the first President. It is a society that provides for the poor members of the congregation, helping them in their days of poverty and distress and seeking to make life less burdensome for them. In order to save the feelings of the recipients, alms and groceries and other needed articles of charity are dispensed with such privacy that only the members of the society know who is being aided and to what extent.

A collection is taken up for the benefit of this society every first Sunday of the month, and to their credit be it said, the members of the congregation contribute generously for the benefit of Christ's poor. Mr. August Knecht is now President.

These four societies existed when Father Longinus became pastor of the congregation. Into them he injected new life and under his wise administration, they blossomed and bore spiritual fruit.

In the year 1889, he organized the St. Aloysius Sodality for the school girls, in which they were to remain until they were received into the Sodality of the Immaculate Conception, for the young ladies. Today it enjoys a membership of 60 girls between 12 to 16 years of age.

On June 15, 1892, the League of the Sacred Heart was organized with Miss Mary Halbe as first President. This league was a success from the start, owing no doubt, to the generous co-operation of the many zealous promoters, who were punctal in distributing the leaflets to the members of their bands. It numbers at present 850 members. Mrs. Leo Schwarze is now the President.

On August 15, 1893, Father Longinus formed an organization of the Third Order of St. Francis in the parish. Men and women may belong to this society. It numbers among its members a few men and about thirty-two women, who are more zealous for the higher things of the soul and the perfection of their own spiritual lives.

On October 20, 1912, the Reverend Henry John Steinhagen, the assistant pastor, with the permission of Father Longinus, his pastor, introduced the Senior and Junior Holy Name Societies into the parish.

The Senior Holy Name Society is for the boys of 16 years and above, and the single and married men of the parish. The first reception was held October 20, 1912, at which time 125 men were received. Today its membership has increased to 375 men. Its first officers were: President, Gustave A. Rees; Vice President, Joseph Meyers; Secretary, Francis Buehler, all of whom still occupy these respective offices; Consultors, Edward Klitsch and Frank Schramm, the latter also still in office, and the Reverend Father Steinhagen, Spiritual Director.

REV. LINUS A. SCHWARZE
Ordained, June 5, 1903.

REV. WILLIAM A. DROBEL
Ordained, June 6, 1903.

The members receive Holy Communion every three months on the third Sunday of the month, and meet every third Sunday of the month for the recitation of the Office of the Holy Name and to listen to a sermon or spiritual conference.

The Junior Holy Name Society includes the boys between the ages of 12 and 16 years. When 16 years old, they are transferred without further ceremony into the Senior Society. Its first reception was coincident with that of the Senior Society, at which 49 boys were received. At present it numbers about 80 boys.

Its first officers, elected in January, 1913, were: President, Philip Rosenberger; Vice President, George Post; Secretary, Aloysius Lotz; Consultors, Vincent Ruff and Louis Smith; Spiritual Director, the Reverend Father Steinhagen.

The members receive Holy Communion in a body every second Sunday of the month, and in the afternoon of the same day, after devotion, recite the Litany of the Holy Name and listen to a spiritual conference suited to the needs of boys.

There is, therefore, a church society for every member of the parish of 12 years or over, whether single or married. If they are not a member of at least one or the other church society, they have themselves to blame and in a spiritual sense are the losers.

The flourishing or languishing state of Church Societies is the thermometer that indicates the zeal of the members of a parish. It shows the members of the parish to be actively engaged in good works or spiritually indifferent.

The advantages of well-organized and flourishing Chuch Societies both for the pastor and the parishioners are indeed many and very great. These Church Societies are the pastor's right hand in all his undertakings for the spiritual welfare and material prosperity of his congregation.

Besides these devotional societies just mentioned, there are also three Beneficial Societies affiliated with St. John the Baptist's parish. They are: St. John the Baptist Beneficial Society, organized February 11, 1849. The first President was Mr. . Its present membership is 113.

It is the oldest beneficial society connected with St. John's Church, and probably the oldest in the city of Pottsville, as well as in Schuylkill county, being in existence 68 years.

The Charter Members were as follows:

J. F. Altstadt	Adam Schilling
A. J. Reith	Nicholas Schmitt
Adam Michel	Peter Fletchen
Peter Hellenthal	John Meyers
Peter Ochs	Conrad Meyers
J. M. Lehner	George Hummel
George Reinhart	George Altstadt

Henry Long

St. Bernard's Beneficial Society was founded in the year 1872. The first President was Mr. August Knecht. It numbers today 120 members.

The Knights of St. George, introduced among the men and young men of the parish March 9, 1913. The first President was Henry Dirschedl, M.D. It has 169 members, mostly young men.

St. John's Church by means of these devotional and beneficial societies is better able to provide for the spiritual advancement and material welfare of its members.

VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD AND THE RELIGIOUS ORDERS

And now we turn to one of the brightest pages in the history of the parish, that on which is written the names of the sons and daughters, who have gone forth from its midst to consecrate themselves in a special manner to the service of God and their neighbor.

Seven young men of the parish, have up to the present time been ordained to the priesthood and have celebrated their first Solemn Masses in St. John's Church.

They were ordained in the following order: The Reverend Linus Aloysius Schwarze was ordained for the Diocese of Trenton in St. Vincent's Benedictine Archabbey Church at Beatty, Westmoreland County, Pa., by the Right Reverend John Francis Regis Canevin, D.D., Bishop of Pittsburgh, June 5, 1903. St. Vincent's Seminary is conducted by the Fathers of the Order of St. Benedict. He was first appointed as assistant Priest of St. Mary's Church, Bordentown, N. J. On October 1, 1904, he received his appointment as pastor of St. Mary's Church, Stony Hill, N. J., being at the time the youngest Rector in the Diocese of Trenton, and succeeding the Reverend Father Schandel, who was the oldest. While stationed there he had charge of a mission at Sterling which is in the Diocese of Newark. On January 14, 1914, he became pastor of St. John the Baptist's Church in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Father Linus Schwarze was born September 18, 1878, in Pottsville.

The Reverend William J. Drobel was ordained a day later, June 6, 1903, for the Diocese of Philadelphia, in the Chapel of St. Charles' Seminary, Overbrook, Penna., by the Most Reverend Patrick John Ryan, D.D., Archbishop of Philadelphia. He celebrated his first Solemn Mass in his parish church, June 7, and received his appointment as assistant Priest of St. Ignatius' Church, Philadelphia, whence he was transferred as assistant Priest to All Saints', Bridesburg, Philadelphia, and then to St. John's, Pottsville. Later he was appointed chaplain of St. Agnes' Hospital, Philadelphia. About seven years ago, he became pastor of St. Nicholas' Church, Weatherly, Carbon county, Pa.

Rev. Edward J. Leinheiser was ordained June 10, 1911, for the Diocese of Columbus, in the Chapel of the Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus, Ohio, by the Right Reverend James J. Hartley, D.D., Bishop of Columbus, June 18. He celebrated his first Solemn Mass in Pottsville and was afterwards sent to London, England, by Bishop Hartley to pursue a course of studies in Church music and Gregorian chant.

He studied with the Benedictines on the Isle of Wight and at Beuron, Germany, for almost two years. On his return to Columbus in the early part of 1913, he was appointed Chaplain of St. Francis' Hospital, Columbus, Ohio. He has charge of teaching Gregorian chant in the Cathedral of Columbus and of introducing it into the various churches of the Diocese of Columbus. He is also Director of Music of the Parochial Schools of Columbus.

The Rev. Aloysius R. Rees was ordained for the Diocese of Philadelphia, November 16, 1911, in the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul, Philadelphia, by the Most Reverend Edmond Francis Prendergast, D.D., Archbishop of Philadelphia. He celebrated his first Solemn Mass in Pottsville, November 19. On November 23, he was appointed assistant Priest of the Church of Our Lady, Help of Christians, Philadelphia. In June, 1917, he was transferred to St. Louis' Church, Philadelphia, as assistant Priest.

The Reverend John N. Wachter was ordained for the Diocese of Philadelphia, May 30, 1914, in the Chapel of the Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus, by the Right Reverend James J. Hartley, D.D., Bishop of Columbus. On June 7, he celebrated his first Solemn Mass in his parish

church, Pottsville. A few days later he was appointed assistant Priest of the Church of the Sacred Heart, Allentown, Penna.

The Reverend Leo Stanislaus Schwarze was ordained May 27, 1916, for the Diocese of Trenton in the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul, Philadelphia, by the Most Reverend Edmond Francis Prendergast, D.D., Archbishop of Philadelphia. On May 28, he celebrated his first Solemn Mass in Pottsville. About ten days later he received his appointment as assistant Priest of St. John the Baptist's Church, New Brunswick, of which his brother, the Reverend Linus A. Schwarze, is the very efficient Rector.

The Reverend James W. Post was ordained for the Diocese of Philadelphia, June 13, 1917, in the chapel of the Pontifical College Josephinum, by the Right Reverend James J. Hartley, D.D., Bishop of Columbus. On June 17, he celebrated his first Solemn Mass in his parish church, Pottsville. About eight days later, he was appointed also an assistant Priest of the Church of the Sacred Heart, Allentown, of which the Right Reverend Peter Masson, V.F., is the popular Rector.

There are at present seven students studying in different seminaries for the priesthood. They are: Anthony Charles Schwarze, brother of the Reverends Linus and Leo Schwarze. He is in the third year of theology at St. Vincent's Seminary, Beatty, Pa. He will be ordained next year for the Diocese of Trenton. Leo Post, who is in the first year of theology at St. Charles' Seminary, Overbrook, Pa., the Diocesan Seminary of Philadelphia; Lawrence Leinheiser, who is in the first year of philosophy at the Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus, Ohio; Charles Otterbein, who is in the first year of philosophy, at St. Charles' Seminary, Overbrook, Penna.; Paul Drobel, who is in the second year of philosophy at the Sacred Heart Abbey, Sacred Heart, Oklahoma, where he hopes to become a member of the Benedictine Order; Raymond Michel, who is in the second year of the preparatory department, at St. Charles' Seminary, Overbrook, and Frederick Hirsch, who in September of this year, entered the first year of the preparatory department at the Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus, Ohio.

Besides these young men who have been ordained to the priesthood or are studying to become priests, forty-three young ladies have hearkened to the call of their Lord to follow Him and have left relatives and all the world esteems of value to enter one or the other Religious Orders.

Thirty-nine of them have become Sisters, three are novices and one is a candidate.

The following joined the Order of the Sisters of Christian Charity, whose mother-house was formerly at Wilkes-Barre, Pa., but on February 2, 1916, was changed to the Maria Immaculata Convent, Wilmette, Illinois:

Sister Cyrilla	Helen Zwiebel
Sister Honoria	Louisa Zweibel
Sister Lucina	Anna Kraemer
Sister Walberta	Ida Bernard
Sister Gaudentia	Theresa Rehnert
Sister Jacobina	Anna Bortzel
Sister Hildeburga	Rosa Gastager
Sister Leona	Elisabeth Ruff
Sister Levina	Catherine Nichter
Sister Abundantia	Sophie Zeller
Sister Liberta	Cecelia Zweibel
Sister Bertranda	Antoinette Gunder
Sister Caeciliana	Margaret Ruff
Sister Euphronia	Gertrude Sauer
Sister Desideria	Mary Buehler

REV. ALOYSIUS R. REES
Ordained, November 16, 1911.

REV. EDWARD J. LEINHEISER
Ordained, June 10, 1911.

Sister Didaca ..... Irene Friedrich
Sister Fidentia ..... Elisabeth Goetz
Sister Gudilla ..... Mary Rehnert
Sister Esther ..... Magdalena Leinheuser
Sister Theolida ..... Louisa Leinheuser
Sister Silva ..... Mary Nesbitt
Sister Patiana ..... Martha Dusel
Sister Geraldine ..... Augusta Ruff
Sister Alfredina ..... Laura Haeuptly
Sister Ferdinandis ..... Anna Koller
Sister Rosaria ..... Elisabeth Schuster
Sister Antona ..... Catherine Marx
Sister Dorette (Novice) ..... Mathilda Pappert
Sister Christiana (Novice) ..... Mary Gruber
Marie Bubser (Candidate)

These joined the Order of the Sisters of St. Francis. The mother-house, the Convent of Our Lady of Angels, is at Glen Riddle, Pa.

Sister M. Agnella ..... Cecelia Schwarze
Sister M. Aderita ..... Theresa Raab
Sister M. Beatrice (Novice) ..... Mary Gastager
Sister M. Leo ..... Mary Gastager
Sister M. Elizabeth ..... Magdalena Boedefeld
Sister M. Regina ..... Anna Hornung
Sister M. Angelina ..... Catherine Schmidt

Four joined the Order of the Sisters of St. Benedict, they are:

Sister M. Agnes ..... Othilia Ackermann
Sister M. Rose ..... Catherine Ackermann
Sister M. Caecilia ..... Pauline Ackermann
Sister M. Hildegard ..... Mary A. Zwiebel

Their mother-house, St. Joseph's Convent of St. Benedict, is in St. Mary's, Elk County, Pa.

One became a Sister of the Order of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, whose mother-house, the Convent of Good Shepherd, is at Carthage, Ohio.

Sister Mary of St. Louis..... Monica Kraemer

Two of all these Sisters have departed this life to receive the reward of their self-sacrificing labors: Sister Theolinda, a Sister of Christian Charity, whose name was Louisa Leinheuser, and Sister Regina, a Sister of St. Francis, who in the world was known as Anna Hornung, and whose life was for many years a living martyrdom of sickness. She died two or three years ago in St. Joseph's Hospital, Reading.

These men and women, who consecrated their lives to God and the service of their neighbor, are the fair fruits that prove the existence of a healthy and strong spiritual life in the parish.

They are the honor, the pride and the crowning glory of any parish in its constant labor for the sanctification and salvation of souls.

God's special blessing must rest upon the truly pious members of those families who have willingly given a son or daughter, a brother or sister to the service of God, because it is no small sacrifice to part from one whom they dearly love.

Would that there were still more such devoted sons and daughters ready to heed God's call and sacrifice their lives for love of Him who died for them; more of such generous fathers and mothers, who encouraged by a strong faith are willing, even eager, to give up their children to God, Who

calls them to consecrate their lives to Him for the benefit of His little ones, of His poor, of His sick and affiicted, of His aged, neglected and abandoned men and women!

How many sons and daughters, fathers and mothers would to-day be much happier and more contented than they really are!

Selfishness, love of the world and their own comfort, has deprived them of all that "Peace of God which surpasseth all understanding" and of their due measure of truly earthly happiness.

MISSIONS

There were missions held from time to time in the parish to restore, preserve, strengthen and perfect the spiritual life of its members.

A mission is a carefully planned system of exercises, the object of which is to make the faith of the good what St. Paul calls a living faith; to arouse the lukewarm to a life of fervor; to encourage weary, despondent sinners to make their peace with God; to reclaim those who have strayed away from the practice of their religion or who are held willing captives of some enslaving vice which keeps them away from God; but the main object is to make all classes of people take more to heart the first lesson of the little Catechism: Why did God make me? To know my Maker, to serve Him, and save my soul. "For what doth it profit a man, if he gain the whole world, and suffer the loss of his own soul?" St. Matt. XVI.

A mission is a most powerful means to turn people from the awful career of soul-destroying worldliness.

The first mission was held in the old church at Fourth and Howard, in the year 1865, while Father Wachter was pastor. It was conducted by three Redemptorist Fathers, the Reverends Thaddeus Anwander, Joseph Wissel and John B. Hespelein. One week was for the women, the next for the men.

During the pastorate of Father Longinus, a mission was given from Septemebr 15 to September 29, 1880, by three Redemptorist Fathers, the Reverend Victor Hoelscher, the Reverend Guerin Hilger and Reverend Louis Zinnen. All the sermons were preached in German. The first week was for the single and married women, the second for the single and married men. All the missions given while Father Longinus was pastor were conducted in the same way.

The next mission was given from October 11 to October 25, 1891, also by three Redemptorist Fathers, Rev. Victor Hoelscher, Rev. Louis Zinnen and Rev. Peter Grein. All the sermons were again preached in German.

The exercises of the next mission, from October 26 to November 9, 1896, were conducted by two Jesuit Fathers, the Reverend Anthony von Haza Radlitz and the Rev. Nicholas Greisch. Only German sermons were preached.

There was then no mission until 1912. In that year from September 8 to September 22, two Jesuit Fathers, the Reverend Herman Elskamp and the Reverend John Spirig gave the mission. All the sermons in the evening were preached in English. The attendance was all that could be desired.

A mission is to be given this year, from October 21 to November 4, by three Passionist Fathers, the Reverend Father Valentine Lehnerd and two others.

It will prepare the whole congregation to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of the foundation of the parish, with such dispositions of mind and heart as to be most acceptable to God and to bring down His blessings upon them.

BEQUESTS

In one respect only have the members of the congregation not satisfactorily evinced the strong influence of religion upon them, namely, in making bequests. It seems that with few exceptions they had forgotten the church, which like a generous, loving and watchful mother, through the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Sacraments, the sacramentals and other church services, had enriched them on so many occasions with these powerful means of grace, during their whole lives from the cradle to the grave.

God never intended, especially in the case of those who have been blessed a little more than others with this world's goods, that they should leave every penny of it to their children, perhaps for them to squander. They have a duty, unless their children are poor, to will some of their property for charitable purposes.

The parish could have used those bequests and will gladly do so to-day, if specified in the will, to render St. John's Parochial School a free school. It would then no longer be necessary to pay school money, the children would receive the school-books without cost and the Sisters would receive the payment of their salary, from the interest on the principal.

Thus some parents could no longer excuse sending their children to the public school on the plea that they were too poor to pay school money and for their books; moreover a heavy drain on the parish revenues would be eliminated.

Who will be the first to have the honor of establishing a "School Fund" for the purpose of eventually having a free school in your parish?

The bequests thus far made, together with the amounts and the names of the donors are as follows:

Joseph Ackermann	$200
Ignatius Gaertner	$100
Margaret Ackermann	$250
Barbara Rosenberger	$50
Francis Faust	$900
Catherine Kempel	$1000
Eva Steigerwald	$1000
Bernard Glunz	$500
Rosalie Plappert	$100

The Reverend Frederick William Longinus, $3,410, for the purchase of the Leib property, adjoining the rectory on Mahantongo Street, which he bought and presented to the parish. With the exception of your pastor, Father Longinus, all these generous benefactors of the parish are dead. God reward them for their liberality toward their spiritual mother. May they rest in peace.

Hence your church, as you noticed, has received but few bequests, but if not rich in material goods, she is rich in a spiritual sense, being prolific mother of many devoted and zealous sons and daughters, whom she has given to the priesthood and the various Religious Orders of Sisters.

EXTRAORDINARY EVENTS

A great powder explosion occurred at Mt. Hope, which is situated about two miles from Pottsville, between Pottsville and Minersville. It happened on August 14, 1878, on a Saturday afternoon, about 4 P. M., six months after Father Longinus became pastor in Pottsville. It caused great damage to the windows of many churches, of the court-house and very many houses by the powerful concussion of the air. Fortunately for the parish, the windows in the church were open at the time; hence the only damage wrought was the breaking of the big middle window in front of the church.

REV. JOHN N. WACHTER
Ordained, May 30, 1914.

REV. LEO S. SCHWARZE
Ordained, May 27, 1916.

REV. JACOB W. POST
Ordained, June 13, 1917.

In June, 1873, a wind-storm visited Pottsville, bring destruction in its train. In passing it tore off half the tin roof of the church.

In July, 1889, a severe hailstorm broke over the western part of the town of Pottsville. Hailstones as big as pigeon eggs fell. Window panes were afterwards at a premium. Not many houses in the visited section were spared.

The three big windows in the front of the church were broken on this occasion, as were also many windows of the rectory and the Sisters' house.

PAST AND PRESENT

The congregation is in a very flourishing condition. At its founding the membership was nearly 100, most of whom had immigrated to this country from near Fulda, Hesse, Germany.

When Father Longinus became pastor, in 1878, St. John's Church numbered almost 1,800 souls.

This number was considerably lessened when about the year 1884 Atkins' rolling mill, in Fishback, shut down, and close on to 81 families of the congregation left Pottsville.

Today there are over 2,000 souls in the parish.

ASSISTANT PASTORS

We have already briefly described the priests who were appointed assistant pastors before Father Longinus' coming to Pottsville.

During his pastorate the following nineteen priests were appointed as assistant pastors, to assist Father Longinus in his parochial work. I give them in the order in which they received their appointments, but owing to the fact that no record was kept of the years during which they performed their duties in the parish and having no time at present to investigate their years of service in Pottsville, I must be satisfied with merely naming them.

The future, I hope, will make this information and a brief sketch of each of their lives known to you.

These assistant rectors were:

Rev. Frederick Schlebbe, who died January 19, 1890, while passing through Bethlehem, Pa., on his way to Europe, was ordained priest May 14, 1871, by the Right Reverend John Bossmann, D.D., at Muenster. He is buried in the priests' circle in St. Peter's Cemetery, Reading, Pa.

Rev. John A. Jansen, who afterward became a member of the Society of Jesus, was ordained Priest May 26, 1877, by the Right Reverend John Henry Beckmann, D.D., at Osnabrueck. He died at Boston April 2, 1917, and is buried there.

Rev. Bernard Korves, who is pastor of St. Louis' Church, Philadelphia, was ordained Priest December 21, 1878, by the Most Reverend James Frederic Wood, D.D., in the Cathedral of Philadelphia.

Rev. Joseph J. Nerz, who died April 3, 1911, as pastor of the Sacred Heart Church, Allentown, was ordained Priest December 3, 1879, by the Right Reverend Jeremiah Francis Shanahan, D.D., in the Cathedral of Philadelphia.

Rev. John A. Seimetz, pastor of the Annunciation, B. V. M., Catasauqua, was ordained Priest May 29, 1887, by the Most Reverend Patrick John Ryan, D.D., LL.D., in the Cathedral of Philadelphia.

Rev. Anthony T. Schuettelhoefer, who was pastor of Holy Family Church, Shenandoah, when he died December 29, 1904, at St. Agnes' Hos-

pital, Philadelphia. He was ordained Priest June 11, 1870, at Louvain, Belgium.

Rev. Charles I. Sauers, who was chaplain of St. Joseph's Hospital, Reading, where he died March 31, 1916. He was ordained Priest December 23, 1871, by the Right Reverend Thomas A. Becker, D.D., at Baltimore.

Rev. Henry A. Gantert, at present pastor of St. Mary's of the Assumption, Manayunk, Philadelphia, was ordained Priest March 15, 1890, by Archbishop Ryan in the Cathedral.

Rev. Francis X. Wastl, chaplain of All Saints' Chapel, Philadelphia Hospital, was ordained Priest May 31, 1890, by Archbishop Ryan in the Cathedral.

Rev. Albert M. Korves, pastor of St. Joseph's, Easton, was ordained Priest May 23, 1891, by Archbishop Ryan in the Cathedral.

Rev. Francis J. Regnery, pastor of SS. Peter and Paul's, Lehighton, Pa., was ordained Priest May 19, 1894, by Archbishop Ryan in the Cathedral.

Rev. Anthony M. Koos, pastor of St. Bartholomew's, Brockton, was ordained Priest May 27, 1899, by Archbishop Ryan at Overbrook, Pa.

Rev. Edward G. Werner, pastor of St. Mary's, Beaver Meadow, was ordained Priest July 26, 1896, by the Right Reverend Simon Aichner, D.D., at Innscruck, Austria.

Rev. Francis P. Holtgreve, who is pastor of Holy Family Church, Shenandoah, was ordained Priest September 27, 1896, by Archbishop Ryan in the Cathedral.

Rev. Joseph A. Schaefer, at present pastor of St. Boniface's Church, St. Clair, was ordained Priest June 1, 1901, by Archbishop Ryan at Overbrook, Pa.

Rev. Charles P. Bruehl, S.T.L., Ph.D., professor of philosophy at St. Charles' Seminary, Overbrook, was ordained Priest July 16, 1902, by the Right Reverend Camillus Paul Maes, D.D., at Louvain, Belgium.

Rev. William J. Drobel, pastor of St. Nicholas' Church, Weatherly, Carbon Co., Pa., was ordained Priest June 6, 1903, by the Right Reverend Edmond Francis Prendergast, D.D., at Overbrook, Pa.

Rev. Joseph Hensbach, pastor of St. John the Baptist's Church, Continental, Putnam Co., Ohio, Diocese of Toledo, was ordained Priest March 9, 1894.

Rev. Henry J. Steinhagen, who was appointed November 23rd, 1911, and is still assistant priest of the parish, was ordained Priest November 16, 1911, by the Most Reverend Edmond Francis Prendergast, D.D., in the Cathedral at Philadelphia.

Father Longinus, by the providence of God, notwithstanding his many labors and undertakings for the welfare of the parish and the benefit of its members, is living to-day, and still pastor of St. John the Baptist Church. Rich in years is he, like a giant oak covered with snowflakes; but still healthy and strong, able to perform all his priestly functions and attend to the many and various duties of his office.

Well may his parishioners be grateful to God that he was appointed pastor of the parish at the most crucial time in its history, when some of the parishioners, who had become discouraged because of the debt of $22,000 resting on the church property, were saying, "It will be sheriffed." Hence, these words of merited praise which "The Pottsville Evening Chronicle" in its issue of April 22nd, 1895, expressed on the occasion of the corner-stone laying of the new Parochial School by His Excellency, the

Most Reverend Francis Satolli, D.D., titular Archbishop of Lepanto, who afterwards became a Cardinal Priest and later a Cardinal Bishop, concerning the Reverend Frederick William Longinus, pastor of St. John the Baptist's Church, are worthy of repetition.

It reads: "When Father Longinus took charge the church was far from being complete. He was not discouraged by the condition of affairs, and the first Sunday of his pastorate he created such a favorable impression among the parishioners that he received the undivided support of every member; and as a result St. John's parish to-day stands forth as one of the best and most successfully managed, financially and otherwise, in the Diocese of Philadelphia. Many improvements have from time to time been made to the new church."

And further on we read: "The new school building, the corner-stone of which was laid yesterday with impressive ceremonies, is the crowning glory of Father Longinus' priestly labors. He is self-sacrificing in his efforts in behalf of the spiritual and temporal welfare of his flock, which has won for him all the tender sentiments which the word 'Father' implies. The respect and esteem which the rector of St. John's commands is not alone confined to this city, but extends throughout the state."

With still greater right is he entitled to hear these words to-day.

Two things especially have distinguished his life, his fidelity in the discharge of his priestly duties and the remarkable executive ability which he displayed in his methods of acquirement and in the management of the parish finances.

The members of the congregation entertain deep sentiments of affection toward their kind but just spiritual father. They are proud of the record made by him during his pastorate, through their generous and hearty co-operation with his efforts on their behalf.

May God preserve him for many years to come, prosper the future efforts and projects of the congregation, ever following the good example of those who have gone before them and working always under the leadership of their lawful superiors, and shower His rich blessings upon the affectionate, generous and obedient spiritual children of a beloved pastor.

PROFESSOR LEO A. SCHWARZE.

Organist of St. John the Baptist's Church, since April 21, 1875

A BRIEF HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE EARLY DAYS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, TOGETHER WITH STATISTICS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCHES, MISSIONS, PRIESTS, SCHOOLS, SISTERS AND THE CATHOLIC POPULATION OF THE COUNTY AT THE PRESENT TIME.

[1]"It is interesting to know that Schuylkill County was erected out of parts of Berks and Northampton Counties by an Act of Assembly passed March 1st, 1811. In that act it is set forth that: 'Whereas the inhabitants of the northern parts of Berks and Northampton Counties have, by their petitions, set forth to the General Assembly of this state the great hardship they labor under, from being so remote from the present seat of justice and the public offices, be it enacted, etc. That all that part of Berks County lying and being within the limits of the following townships, to wit: The townships of Brunswick, Schuylkill, Manheim, Norwegian, Upper Mahantongo, Lower Mahantongo and Pine Grove, in Berks County, and the townships of West Penn and Rush, in Northampton County, shall be, and the same are hereby, according to their present lines, declared to be erected into a county, henceforth to be called Schuylkill.'

[2]"By the same act courts were authorized to be held at the house then occupied by Abraham Reiffsnyder, in the township of Brunswick, until a courthouse should be built."

See [1]"History of Northampton, Lehigh, Monroe, Carbon and Schuylkill Counties, Containing a Brief History of the First Settlers," by I. Daniel Rupp, 1845, p. 247. Courtesy of the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia.

[2]"Smith's Laws of Pennsylvania," V., p. 202.

There was but one Catholic church in Schuylkill County, St. Patrick's Church, in Pottsville, which was attended every Sunday by Rev. John Fitzpatrick, pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Milton, Northumberland County, when in July, 1830, Rt. Rev. Francis Patrick Kenrick, D. D., arrived in Philadelphia as Coadjutor Bishop and Administrator of the Diocese.

When on October 9, 1851, after having received the Papal Bulls, by which he was raised to the Metropolitan See of Baltimore, he left Philadelphia after nightfall for Baltimore, there were five Catholic churches with resident pastors in Schuylkill County: two in Pottsville—St. Patrick's and St. John the Baptist's (German); St. Jerome's in Tamaqua; St. Vincent's in Minersville, and St. Stephen's in Port Carbon. There were also a few missions attended by the pastors of these five churches.

There were only two parochial schools in Schuylkill County at this time—St. Patrick's, Pottsville, in charge of the Sisters of St. Joseph since September, 1848, and St. John the Baptist's, Pottsville, taught by one lay teacher and which was probably opened in September, 1850.

It will be interesting to give a brief sketch of the early days of these five parishes, excepting St. John the Baptist's, of Pottsville, of which a fairly complete history appears further on in this book.

It is difficult to discover who was the first Catholic that settled in Schuylkill County, which is in the Diocese of Philadelphia, established April 8, 1808, or in what part of the county he located.

To find out this interesting information would require a vast amount of research work, for which I have at present neither the time nor the inclination.

ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, POTTSVILLE

To St. Patrick's Catholic Church, of Pottsville, belongs the distinction of having been the first Catholic church erected, and its members also composed the first Catholic parish in this county.

Moreover, this church built on the corner of Mahantongo and Fourth Streets was the first building erected in Pottsville exclusively for religious services. Ferdinand Durang, architect.

It was a small frame building, and was built in 1828 at a cost of about $1000.

St. Patrick's Church dates back before 1827, when Rev. John Fitzpatrick came from Milton, Northumberland County, Pa., every Sunday to celebrate Mass for the Catholic people then living in Pottsville and the surrounding country.

The following has been taken from a translation of the Diary and Visitation Record of the Rt. Rev. Francis Patrick Kenrick, Administrator and Bishop of Philadelphia, 1830-1851:

"About the end of the year 1827, Rev. John Fitzpatrick bought a plot of ground on Mahantongo Road from John Potts for $150.00, the same to be used for a church building and cemetery; the said John Potts granting another plot of ground for the same purpose.

"The church property was held in the name of Rev. John Fitzpatrick until September 13, 1836, when on the occasion of the visit of Rt. Rev. Francis Patrick Kenrick to St. Joseph's Church near Milton, the said Rev. John Fitzpatrick, pastor of Milton, conveyed to the Bishop the title to the ground on which St. Patrick's Church in Pottsville is built.

"On September 6, 1830, Bishop Kenrick went to Pottsville.

"Rev. Edward McCarthy, S. J., was assigned to the charge of St. Patrick's Church, promising to visit the congregation once each month, probably from Goshenhoppen (Bally), Berks County.

"He volunteered to take charge of the church until I can find a way to place a priest there to act as pastor.

"One hundred Catholic families at least are said to be living in this town, which is rising to importance in a remarkable way. Most of the people are poor—the families, that is, of working men engaged in digging coal or employed on the canal or on the public roads. It is estimated that there are nearly 2000 Catholic men engaged in these public works.

"In this whole region, as far as the boundaries of the State of New York (northward and eastward), there is not one priest."

Father McCarthy, S.J., was the first resident pastor of St. Patrick's Church, where he remained until 1833.

During his pastorate of three years he was instrumental in enlarging and otherwise improving the church building.

On June 29, 1831, Bishop Kenrick became formally an American citizen at Philadelphia.

On May 18, 1832, the Bishop set out on his journey to Pottsville. On May 20, he confirmed 130 persons here in St. Patrick's Church. It was the first time that he administered the Sacrament of Confirmation in Schuylkill County.

Rev. Arthur Wainwright became pastor in November, 1833. While he had charge, the main structure of a new church was erected. The corner-stone was laid Sunday, September 24, 1837, and then gradually the walls of the new building arose around the old one, in which religious services were held until the old one had to be demolished to complete the new one.

The new church was solemnly blessed by Bishop Kenrick, September 29, 1839.

Father Wainwright lived until May 2, 1839. After his death, he was buried with most impressive ceremonies beneath the altar of the new church.

His successor was Rev. James A. Miller.

In that year, there was a school in Pottsville under the care of the Sisters of Charity, who taught about 60 girls free of charge.

"The pastor was then Rev. James A. Miller, a good priest, but who on account of worry over the debt of $3,400 on the church, wished to be relieved of the care thereof."

On October 9, 1840, Rev. Hugh Patrick Gallagher was appointed assistant pastor. Father Edward Maginnis was pastor at this time.

On Sunday, September 4, 1842, Bishop Kenrick confirmed 350 persons in St. Patrick's Church. Rev. Edward Maginnis was pastor at the time, and Rev. Nicholas Joseph Cantwell, assistant pastor.

Again on October 5, 1845, Bishop Kenrick confirmed 350 people here; on September 5, 1847, 137 of the congregation; and on July 22, 1849, 73 members of the parish, and for the last time, on September 14, 1851, but the number is not mentioned.

On July 22, 1849, Bishop Kenrick visited the house of the Sisters of St. Joseph, who were then living in Pottsville for almost a year.

The Pottsville Convent was opened August 28, 1848. They were the first Sisters in charge of a Parochial School in Schuylkill County.

During the pastorate of Rev. Joseph Vincent O'Keeffe, who was appointed in 1852, the old rectory was built on Fourth Street, opposite the church. Father O'Keeffe baptized the Reverend Francis Patrick Siegfried, the Reverend James Nash and the Right Reverend Francis Joseph McGovern in Schuylkill County's third Catholic church. The much beloved and saintly Father O'Keeffe died in St. Patrick's old rectory July 27, 1860, and was buried in St. Mary's Cemetery, Tenth and Moore Streets, Philadelphia. His grave is sadly neglected.

He was succeeded in 1860 by Rev. Nicholas J. Walsh, who was pastor for eleven years. He cleared the church from debt and purchased a new cemetery.

ST. JEROME'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, TAMAQUA

Rev. John Fitzpatrick, pastor of St. Joseph's Church near Milton, administered occasionally to the Catholic people in Tamaqua, before the first pastor was appointed.

St. Jerome's Catholic Church in Tamaqua was built on the hill where their cemetery now stands, in the year 1833.

It was a plain frame structure and was solemnly blessed by the Right Reverend Francis Patrick Kenrick, D. D., Bishop administrator of Philadelphia, July 6, 1834. On the same day he confirmed 50 members of the parish.

Bishop Kenrick confirmed 60 parishoners here on October 19, 1845; again on September 17, 1847, he administered the Sacrament of Confirmation, to 17 persons; and on July 21, 1849, he confirmed at Tamaqua, but the number is not given.

Rev. James Maloney, who was ordained priest by Bishop Kenrick May 25, 1837, succeeded Father Wainwright as pastor in 1838, and remained until November, 1848. Father Maloney died April 27, 1852, pastor at Honesdale, Wayne County, Pa.

Rev. Patrick J. Hennegan then took charge, until in November, 1850, Rev. Martin Kelly became pastor. He died at New Orleans, La., January 24, 1854.

In June, 1852, Rev. James F. Morris came to Tamaqua and administered to his congregation until January 16, 1856.

Bachrach.

BISHOP LEECH

George L. Leech, bishop; b. Ashley, Pa., May 21, 1890; s. William Dillon and Helen Mary (FitzSimons) L.; ed. St. Charles Sem., Overbrook, Pa., 1913-20; J.C.D., Cath. U. of America, 1922. Ordained priest R.C. Ch.; sec. Apostolic Delegation, Washington, 1923-29; rector St. Patrick's Church, Pottsville, Pa., 1929-35; apptd. titular bishop of Mela and auxiliary bishop of Harrisburg since Dec. 19, 1935. Trustee Am. Eccles. Review. Address: 111 State St., Harrisburg, Pa.

The old church was removed in 1856. In the same year, Rev. James F. Morris began to erect the new edifice, a large stone building, 60 feet by 100 feet, with a tower, on West Broad and Green Streets. The corner-stone was blessed and placed by the Rev. Joseph Vincent O'Keeffe, rector of St. Patrick's Church, Pottsville, on June 8, 1856.

The Right Reverend Bishop Neumann, of Philadelphia, was in Tamaqua when the corner-stone was blessed, but did not officiate, as he was indisposed.

It was completed in 1859 by Rev. Maurice A. Walsh, who came to Tamaqua as pastor, January 16, 1856.

The new church was solemnly blessed by the Right Reverend John Nepomucen Neumann, C.SS.R., D.D., Bishop of Philadelphia, on August 21, 1859. The sermon was delivered by the Very Reverend Patrick Eugene Moriarty, O.S.A., D.D., of Philadelphia.

Father Walsh, who afterwards became Vicar-General of the Diocese of Philadelphia, performed the duties of his office in Tamaqua until June, 1861, when he was appointed rector of St. Charles' Seminary, Philadelphia.

The Very Reverend Maurice A. Walsh, LL. D., V. G., died November 22, 1888, and is buried in the Cathedral Crypt, Philadelphia.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL'S CHURCH, MINERSVILLE

St. Vincent de Paul's parish was established in January, 1846, when Rev. Hugh P. Fitzsimons, then assistant rector of St. Patrick's Church, Pottsville, was appointed pastor.

Father Fitzsimons, upon assuming charge of the parish, built a small frame building, 30 feet by 20 feet, on the cemetery lot.

On April 21, 1846, excavation for the foundation walls of a new church, 100 feet by 50 feet, was begun. Account to Bishop Neumann says "118 feet by 50 feet." Account to Catholic Herald says "110 feet by 55 feet."

The corner-stone of the new church was laid the following August by the Right Reverend Francis Patrick Kenrick, D. D., Bishop of Philadelphia. Who can prove this statement?

The corner-stone of St. Vincent de Paul's Church was blessed and laid on Sunday, July 19, 1846 (Bishop Neumann says "May, 1846"). The sermon on the occasion was delivered by the Very Reverend John Possidius O'Dwyer, O.S.A., of Philadelphia. The new church was blessed Sunday, December 6, 1846 (another manuscript says "1847"). The celebrant was the Reverend James Maloney and the sermon was delivered by the Very Reverend Father O'Dwyer, O.S.A. The collection amounted to $300. It was the largest church edifice in the diocese outside of Philadelphia.

On September 5, 1847, Bishop Kenrick confirmed 80 members of this parish, and according to one account "in church not yet blessed."

This new parish of St. Vincent de Paul in those days covered an area of about 240 square miles; extending in a westerly direction 30 miles, and 8 miles from north to south. This area had a Catholic population of about 7,000 souls.

August 12, 1848, Rev. Michael Ambrose Malone was appointed pastor of this church. He it was who finished the interior of the building. In August, 1860, he erected the tower at its southern extremity, at a cost of $700.

In 1852 Father Malone built a brick pastoral residence, 60x40 feet, two and a half stories high, next to the church, at a cost of $4,000.

Father Malone sometimes had to attend sick calls at a distance of over thirty miles from the church.

He died April 16, 1877, after being rector of this church for 28 years and eight months.

His remains lie in a vault in the rear of the church, on Sunbury Street.

ST. STEPHEN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, PORT CARBON

St. Stephen's Catholic Church, as early as 1840 was attended from St. Patrick's Church, Pottsville, and until 1847 it was a mission church.

In 1847, Rev. Daniel Magorien became the first pastor, and he continued in charge, until he was succeeded in 1877, by Rev. Peter C. McEnroe.

The church edifice, of stone, was begun in 1846, the corner-stone being blessed and laid in June, 1846.

It was built mostly by voluntary contribution of labor and material by the members of the congregation.

On July 22, 1849, Bishop Kenrick administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 160 persons.

At the time of its organization, the parish included New Philadelphia, which has since become a separate parish.

The church was solemnly blessed by the Reverend Dominic Forrestal on February 7, 1847. In 1857 St. Stephen's Church was enlarged 46 feet by 122 feet. The renovated edifice was solemnly blessed by the Right Reverend James Frederic Wood, D.D., Titular Bishop of Antegonea and Coadjutor, with the right of succession to the Bishop of Philadelphia, on June 28, 1857.

ST. BONIFACE'S CHURCH, ST. CLAIR

In 1852 the Right Reverend Bishop Neumann gave permission to the Catholics of St. Clair to build a church.

On May 20, 1853, Bishop Neumann wrote to his friend in Europe, the Reverend Herman Dichtl, as follows: "I thank God for His rich blessings upon your efforts in behalf of this Diocese. Father Repis is laboring with great fervor and self-devotedness at his mission among the miners at St. Clair, Schuylkill County. He will soon finish his little log church. The Reverend Francis Joseph Wachter is still at the Seminary. He will be ordained deacon tomorrow, Saturday, May 21, 1853. As he has finished his studies and his conduct is exemplary, I shall ordain him this summer, Saturday, June 25, 1853. I hope our poor German-speaking Catholics may have reason to thank God for his arrival in America. Of those mentioned in your letter, none has, as yet, arrived. I am anxiously expecting them, for scarcely a week passes that I am not asked by petitions and deputations to send a German-speaking Priest some place or other. So far I have not been able to do anything more than exhort such applicants to pray to God to send us good Priests, and then to wait in patience."

One may easily glean from this letter that the Reverend Wenceslaus John Repis was the first Pastor of St. Clair.

On October 30, 1853, Bishop Neumann visited St. Clair and solemnly blessed the newly finished frame church, and also administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 43 persons. Father Repis was Pastor from February, 1853, to August 4, 1854, when he was sent to Philadelphia as Rector of St. Alphonsus' Church. The Reverend Philip Wegmayr was assistant in 1853 and 1854. Father Repis was succeeded by the Reverend Joseph Hamm, who had been ordained Priest by Bishop Neumann, June 10, 1854, in the old House of the Good Shepherd, 22nd and Walnut Streets, Philadelphia. Father Hamm remained Pastor until October, 1858. He died November 16, 1892, Pastor of Decada, Wisconsin, at the age of seventy years. On November 18, 1858, Bishop Neumann authorized the blessing of a cemetery for the use of the English-speaking Catholics of St. Clair. The Reverend Severin Sommer was appointed after him, and remained in residence until December, 1860, when the Reverend Philip Woerner was sent as Pastor,

remaining until October, 1861. Father Woerner was ordained Priest by Bishop Neumann in St. Patrick's Church, Philadelphia, November 28, 1858. He died April 23, 1886, at Albany, N. Y. The next Priest to come was the Reverend Francis Louis Neufeld, remaining nearly one year. After him came the Reverend Alphonsus M. Schedle, O.S.B.V.M., in March, 1863. Father Schedle was Pastor until February, 1864, when he was succeeded by the Reverend Herman A. Depmann. In May, 1869, the Reverend Bernard Dornhege, who had been ordained Priest April 5, 1869, was appointed Rector of St. Boniface's Church. He remained in charge until June, 1872, when he was appointed Rector of St. Elizabeth's Church, Philadelphia. Father Dornhege died August 14, 1911, aged sixty-seven years. He is buried at the rear of the Church he built at 23rd and Berks Streets, Philadelphia.

The Rev. John Gerhard Freude became Pastor in June, 1872, and remained until November, 1879. He was ordained Priest June 18, 1859. He died May 26, 1900, in Germany. Succeeding Father Freude was the Reverend Frederick Schleble, remaining until December, 1882, when the Reverend Aloysius Misteli was sent to rule the parish. Father Misteli was ordained Priest January 24, 1878, in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, St. Charles' Seminary, Overbrook, Pa., by the Right Reverend William O'Hara, D.D., Bishop of Scranton. Under Father Misteli's able administration many substantial improvements were made to the Church. The learned and scholarly Father Misteli is at present the Rector of St. Maurice's Church, Ashland. In January, 1889, the Reverend Joseph J. Nerz succeeded Father Misteli; he remained until he was appointed Rector of St. Ignatius Loyola's Church, Philadelphia, in October, 1894. The next Pastor was the Reverend Charles Ignatius Sauers, who remained until December 10, 1902, when he became Rector of the Church of the Most Blessed Sacrament, at Bally, Berks County, the oldest Catholic church edifice in the State of Pennsylvania. The Reverend Albert M. Korves succeeded Father Sauers. He is well known to all the people of St. Clair as a modest, humble and most faithful Priest. He is beloved by all in Easton, where he is doing God's work to the edification of all, irrespective of creed, nationality or race, since September, 1911. The present incumbent, the Reverend Joseph A. Schaefer, was born in Reading, Pa., October 16, 1874; son of John George and Frederica Schaefer. He received his early education in St. Paul's Parish School, Reading. He studied at St. Vincent's College, near Latrobe, Pa., and at St. Charles' Seminary, Overbrook, Pa. He was raised to the sublime dignity of the holy Priesthood by the Most Reverend Patrick John Ryan, D.D., LL.D., on June 1, 1901, in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, attached to St. Charles' Seminary, Overbrook. He celebrated his first Solemn Mass in St. Paul's Church, Reading, June 2, 1901. After serving well the several missions to which he was sent, we find him the gentle and kind Pastor of St. Boniface's.

ST. MAURICE'S CHURCH, ASHLAND

In 1853 the German-speaking Catholics of Ashland requested the Right Reverend Bishop Neumann to send them a German-speaking Priest. The holy Bishop, ever burning with zeal for the salvation of souls, sent the Reverend Matthias Joseph Meurer, whom he had ordained Priest in St. Patrick's Church, Philadelphia, on August 10, 1856. Father Meurer was one of four brothers who became Priests. He blessed and laid the corner-stone of St. Maurice's Church on October 19, 1856. The edifice was built of stone and measured 40 feet by 43 feet. It was opened for use on December 28, 1856, but was not formally blessed until October 14, 1857, when Bishop

Neumann performed the ceremony and at the same time confirmed 36 persons. The Reverend John Baptist Frisch became Pastor on March 7, 1858. He died May 22, 1872, at South Easton, Pa.

In 1863, and perhaps earlier, the Reverend John Baptist Bach was Pastor. He was ordained Priest August 10, 1856, in St. Patrick's Church, Philadelphia, by Bishop Neumann. He left in 1867. He was followed by the Reverend John George Pape, who was ordained Priest October 18, 1867, by the Right Reverend Bishop Wood, in the Cathedral, Philadelphia. Father Pape was followed by the return of Father Muerer, who remained until 1872. In 1873 came the Reverend Frederick William Longinus, and along with him and through him, peace to the congregation and to the Bishop. He was sent as Rector in 1878 to St. John's Church, Pottsville, and the Reverend Anthony Nathe became Pastor and served until 1898. The present Pastor is too well known to the people of Ashland, for, since 1898 he has done everything for the good of his people and for the good of Ashland. May Father Aloysius Misteli be spared many years!

SAINT JOSEPH'S CHURCH, ASHLAND

It is evident that there were quite a few Catholics in Ashland in 1854, for it is recorded that twenty persons received the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Public Schools from the Right Reverend Bishop Neumann, of Philadelphia, on September 19, 1854. The good people of Ashland began to collect for a church edifice. They met with such success that on March 19, 1856, the feast of St. Joseph, the corner-stone was solemnly blessed and placed in position by the Reverend Joseph Vincent O'Keeffe, of happy and blessed memory.

The Reverend Thomas Joseph Lyndon was here in Ashland in October, 1856. He was ordained Priest December 22, 1855, by Bishop Neumann, in the old House of the Good Shepherd, Philadelphia.

On October 13, 1857, Bishop Neumann confirmed 123 persons in the church nearly finished. About this time there was destined for Ashland a Priest of God who was to play no small part in the moulding of affairs in Schuylkill County. In 1857 the much-revered and much-beloved Priest and scholar arrived in the person of the Reverend Michael Sheridan. He was born in County Longford, Ireland, on April 19, 1820. Driven from his native land by the English, he went in 1837 to the Dominican Convent in Lisbon, Portugal, where he pursued his studies for the Priesthood. He was ordained a Priest June 1, 1844. After serving on the mission in Holland and Belgium, he was appointed, in 1845, to the professorship of the English language in the Dominican College in Dublin. He left the Dominicans and came to Philadelphia in 1852, and was most welcomely received by the newly consecrated Bishop of Philadelphia, the Right Reverend Doctor Neumann. With a keen appreciation of the exile's worth, the Bishop placed him in charge of the district comprising the present Counties of Montour, Columbia and Northumberland, and he entered on his mission with that energy and zeal which have marked all his undertakings. In 1857 Bishop Neumann appointed him Pastor of St. Joseph's, Ashland. Here he labored faithfully and well for the uplift of all until his holy death, on September 25, 1880. Father Michael Sheridan was succeeded in the Pastorate by the Reverend Cornelius F. Patterson, who served until 1894. He is at present the genial Chaplain at the Convent of Our Lady of the Angels, Glen Riddle, Delaware County. The next Pastor was the Reverend Hugh J. McGettigan, who remained until 1912, and is now the zealous Pastor of the Holy Infancy Parish in South Bethlehem. Nothing may be said about the present Pastor, because he is so well known to every person in Ashland as the kind and gentle, zealous and eloquent, learned and pious Priest, the Reverend Daniel L. McGinley, who was ordained a Priest by Archbishop Ryan, on the feast of St. Charles, November 4, 1900, in the Seminary Chapel, at Overbrook, Pa.

CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, TREMONT, SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

The Catholics of Tremont had early in 1854 petitioned Bishop Neumann for a Priest. The Reverend Sylvester Eagle received permission May 31, 1854, to bless and lay the corner-stone of a church at Tremont. Father Eagle was Pastor of Bear Gap. He was the first priest ordained by Bishop Neumann after his consecration as a Bishop on Passion Sunday, March 28, 1852, in St. Alphonsus' Church, Baltimore, by the Most Reverend Francis Patrick Kenrick, D.D. The ordination took place in the Bishop's Domestic Chapel, at 18th and Summer Streets, Philadelphia, on Friday, June 11, 1852. Father Eagle blessed and placed the corner-stone on Sunday, June 25, 1854. Bishop Neumann conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation upon 122 persons in Tremont on July 17, 1855. In 1856, December 14, the new church was solemnly blessed by Bishop Neumann. At the same time he confirmed 77 persons.

The sermon at the blessing of the Church was delivered by the Reverend Nicholas J. A. O'Brien, D.D., Professor in St. Charles' Seminary, Philadelphia.

The Pastors after Father Eagle have been the Reverend Francis Carew, maternal uncle of the Most Reverend Archbishop Prendergast; the Reverend William C. McLoughlin, the Reverend Thomas Marron, the Reverend John M. Cox, the Reverend Thomas Toner, the Reverend Francis X. George, the Reverend Peter W. Brannan, the Reverend John J. McDevitt, and the Reverend Francis M. Ward, the present much beloved and zealous Pastor.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH, BROCKTON, FORMERLY PATTERSON

The Reverend Philip Wegmayr received from Bishop Neumann, on June 1, 1854, permission to bless and place the corner-stone of the above-named church. The newly erected edifice was formally blessed by the Right Reverend Bishop Neumann on September 6, 1854. The Bishop on the same occasion gave Confirmation to 19 persons.

The Church has been served by various Priests. The present Rector is the Reverend Anthony M. Koos, who has done much to uplift the spirituals and temporals of St. Bartholomew's Parish. Father Koos was elevated to Priesthood by Archbishop Ryan at St. Charles' Seminary, Overbrook, May 27, 1899.

ST. RAPHAEL'S CHURCH, TUSCARORA

Just a few notes on this mission church, which is attended from Tamaqua every Sunday and Holyday. It is on record that on April 3, 1856, there were 103 married couples, 40 young men and 240 children in the mission parish. On May 8, 1856, the Reverend Maurice A. Walsh, of Tamaqua, was in charge. On May 8, 1856, the Reverend Maurice A. Walsh buys the church. On August 22, 1859, the Right Reverend Bishop confirmed 87 persons in St. Raphael's.

ST. KIERAN'S CHURCH, HECKSCHERSVILLE

The corner-stone of this substantial church was solemnly blessed and placed by the Reverend Nicholas Joseph Cantwell, Rector of St. Philip's Church, Philadelphia, on September 16, 1857. Father Cantwell was ordained Priest by Bishop Francis Patrick Kenrick, on November 4, 1841, in St.

Mary's Church, Philadelphia. Bishop Neumann visited Heckscherville on October 13, 1857, and viewed the building of the Church. The church measured 45 feet by 75 feet, is of stone, and the walls were up 15 feet.

Confirmation was given by the Bishop to 156 persons, on December 6, 1858. The first Pastor in residence was the Reverend John B. Scanlon, who was raised to the holy Priesthood on October 30, 1854, in the old Seminary Chapel, at 18th and Race Streets, Philadelphia, by the Right Reverend James Roosevelt Bayley, D.D., Bishop of Newark. Father Scanlon remained until 1867. He died at Summit Hill, February 6, 1882. The Rev. James McHugh was the next pastor. He was ordained priest June 22, 1865, in the Philadelphia Cathedral by the Right Reverend Bishop Wood. Father McHugh received an assistant in 1872 in the person of the Reverend John J. O'Reilly, who was ordained priest in the Cathedral Chapel by Bishop Wood on May 15, 1864. Father McHugh died January 27, 1875. The Reverend Matthew P. O'Brien was appointed pastor after Father McHugh's death. He was ordained priest April 5, 1869, by Bishop Wood, in the Cathedral of Philadelphia. In 1876 the next pastor was the Reverend Martin P. Walsh, who was ordained priest February 2, 1876, by the Most Reverend Archbishop Wood, at Overbrook, Pa. In 1879 the Reverend Patrick McSwiggan was pastor. He was ordained priest June 10, 1854, by Bishop Neumann, in the House of the Good Shepherd, Philadelphia. In 1885 the Reverend John A. Keul was sent as pastor, and in 1887 the Reverend James C. Wynne was pastor. In 1897 the Reverend John J. Dolan was pastor, with the Reverend Philip J. Gallagher as assistant, and in 1898 the Reverend Andrew J. McCue was assistant. In 1900 the Reverend Patrick J. Tierney was assistant. In 1901 Father Tierney was appointed rector. In 1904 the Reverend William A. Motley was sent as pastor. He was followed in 1912 by the Reverend Cornelius J. O'Neill as pastor. In 1914 the Reverend John B. Dever became pastor, and in 1915 the Reverend Cajetan Diana was assistant, and in 1916 the Reverend Henry C. McElroy came as the assistant priest.

In 1870 the following Churches and Missions existed in Schuylkill County, which from its very beginning, when compared with other counties, composed no small part of the Diocese, in fact, even at that time it ranked next to the County of Philadelphia, in the number of churches and in its Catholic population.

There existed in 1870, sixteen parish Churches situated as follows:

Ashland, St. Joseph's, Rev. Michael Sheridan, Pastor; Rev. John J. O'Reilly, Assistant.

St. Maurice's (German), Rev. Matthias J. Meurer, Pastor.

Heckschersville, St. Kyran's, Rev. James McHugh, Rector.

Mahanoy City, St. Canicus', Rev. Michael McEvoy, Rector; Rev. Nicholas Bowden, Assistant.

St. Fidelis' (German), Rev. Francis J. Buening, Rector.

Minersville, St. Vincent de Paul's, Rev. Michael A. Malone, Rector.

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (German), Rev. Anthony Schwarze, Rector.

New Philadelphia, Church of the Holy Family, Rev. Michael L. Reynolds, Rector.

Port Carbon, St. Stephen's, Rev. Daniel Magorien, Rector; Rev. Thomas Mullen, Assistant Rector.

Pottsville, St. Patrick's, Rev. Nicholas J. Walsh, Rector; Rev. James P. Moroney, Assistant Rector.

St. John the Baptist's (German), Rev. Bernard A. Baumeister, Rector.

St. Clair, St. Mary's, Rev. James A. Brehony, Rector.

St. Boniface's (German), Rev. Bernard Dornhege, Rector.
Schuylkill Haven, St. Ambrose's, Rev. Philip McEnroe, Rector.
Tamaqua, St. Jerome's, Rev. Thomas Quinn, Rector.
Tremont, Immaculate Conception, Rev. John M. Cox, Rector.

These sixteen churches were located in eleven towns. Twenty priests administered to the people's spiritual needs in these 16 parishes and the various missions. In five of these churches, services were held in German.

The missions in the county in 1870 numbered 8. They were located at Port Clinton, attended once a month from Schuylkill Haven; Auburn attended twice a year from Schuylkill Haven; Tuscarora, St. Raphael's, attended twice a month from Tamaqua; Patterson, St. Patrick's, attended twice a year from Tamaqua; Patterson, St. Bartholomew's, attended monthly from St. Clair; Girardville and Mahanoy Plane, attended every second Sunday from St. Joseph's, Ashland; Shenandoah Station, visited once a month from St. Canicus', Mahanoy City.

In 1870, but three Parochial Schools were being conducted in the county; at Pottsville, St. Patrick's with 280 children, taught by the Sisters of St. Joseph; St. John the Baptist's (German), also in Pottsville, boys 47, girls 55, in charge of one lay teacher; and St. Clair, St. Boniface's (German), with 100 children taught by one lay teacher.

See "Diocese of Philadelphia 1870" among the pamphlets of the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia.

Meanwhile the Bishop of the Diocese of Philadelphia was raised to the rank of Metropolitan Archbishop, February 12, 1875.

By 1879, there were other parishes organized and churches built also at Girardville, St. Joseph's, Rev. Daniel O'Connor, Rector, and Rev. Hugh McLaughlin, Assistant.

Mahanoy Plane, St. Mary's, Rev. William Loughran, Rector.

Shenandoah, Annunciation B. V. M., Rev. Henry F. O'Reilly, Rector, and Rev. John J. Boyle, Assistant.

West Shenandoah, Church of the Holy Family (German), Rev. Ernest Deham, Rector.

St. Casimir's (Polish), Rev. J. Alexius Lenarkiewicz, Rector.

This was the first Catholic Church for the Poles to be erected in Schuylkill County.

There were now in these fifteen towns, twenty-one churches attended by twenty-seven priests, who also took care of the various missions. In six of these churches, services were conducted in the German language and in one, in Polish.

By 1879, additional missions had been founded at Mt. Laffee, attended every Sunday from St. Patrick's, Pottsville. Lorberry, Newtown, Swatara, and Tower City were occasionally visited from Tremont.

The number of Parochial Schools had likewise increased from four to six. These had been built in Ashland, St. Maurice's (German), boys 70, girls 65, taught by the Sisters of St. Francis; Mahanoy City, St. Fidelis', boys 53, girls 74, in charge of the Sisters of St. Francis; Minersville, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (German), boys 27, girls 35, in charge of the Rector.

See "Archdiocese of Philadelphia 1879" among the pamphlets of the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia.

TODAY

It is a far step from 1879-1917, but what changes have occurred during these years.

The Catholic Church in Schuylkill County has by the Providence and blessings of God, grown with astonishing rapidity. Its steady and rapid growth furnishes food for reflection to the man who thinks.

Today the Catholic Church in this county has a membership of from 70,000-75,000. These belong to the Roman Rite.

Seventy-four priests administer to these 70,000-75,000 Catholic people, out of a total population of 207,894 in the county according to the Census of 1910.

There are at present 52 parishes, 16 missions and 19 parochial schools.

These 19 parochial schools, according to the "Report of the Parish Schools of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for 1916" had an attendance of 4,029 children, compared with the Public School attendance of 42,301 for the year 1915.

These school statistics speak louder than words. They manifest to us the urgent need of more parochial schools, if at least gradually all the Catholic children are to receive a Catholic education according to the familiar slogan: "Every Catholic child in a Catholic school."

Rt. Rev. John J. McCort, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia, on his recent visit to Schuylkill County, September 23-26, when he administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to children and adults in seventeen churches below the Broad Mountain, emphasized in every parish the necessity of Catholic education and the importance of erecting parochial schools.

The "Catholic Standard and Times," in its issue of Saturday, September 29, says: "In every parish Bishop McCort dwelt with telling force on the necessity of Catholic education. The parochial school question was a main theme in the discourses. Where schools have been established careful scrutiny was made and people and pastors were warmly congratulated. Where there have been no schools the situation was gravely treated."

These 4029 Catholic children of the 19 parochial schools are instructed by 88 teaching Sisters of the different religious orders in all the essential branches of the primary school and turn out graduates, who with few exceptions are the pride of their church, an honor to their country as has been and still is being proven in the present world-war; who become loyal sons of the church and law-abiding and patriotic citizens, second to none in their unselfish love of and self-sacrificing service to their native or adopted country.

It remains for another at some future time to describe what Catholics in the various professions, in business, in the trades, have done for Schuylkill County; how they have worked unceasingly and wrought mightily for the physical welfare, material prosperity, intellectual advancement, the social betterment, and the moral and spiritual uplift of its people.

STATISTICS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCHES, MISSIONS, PRIESTS, SCHOOLS, SISTERS AND THE CATHOLIC POPULATION OF SCHUYLKILL COUNTY AT THE PRESENT TIME

Place	Name	No. of Priests 1917	No. of Sisters 1916		Founded
Ashland	St. Joseph's	2	6	*I. H.	1856
"	St. Maurice's (German)	1	4	St. F.	1856
Branchdale	St. Mary Star of the Sea	1			1902
Brockton	St. Bartholomew's (German)	1			May, 1909
Coaldale	St. Mary's of the Assumption	2	6	I. H.	1893
Cumbola	St. Anthony of Padua (Polish)	1			....
Frackville	St. Joseph's	1	4	I. H.	May 17, 1909
Girardville	St. Joseph's	3			1870
"	St. Vincent's (Lithuanian)	1			....
Heckschersville	St. Kyran's	2	5	St. J.	1858
Kelayres	Immaculate Conception (Italian)	1			1899
Lost Creek	St. Mary Magdalen's	2			1879
McAdoo	St. Patrick's	2			1868
"	St. Mary's (Slovak)	1	4	M. W. of S. Heart	1895
"	St. Cunegunde's (Polish)	1			....
"	St. Stephen's (Magyar)	1			....
Mahanoy City	St. Canicus'	2			1866
"	St. Fidelis' (German)	1	4	St. F.	1868
"	St. Mary's (Slovak)	1			1891
"	St. Joseph's (Lithuanian)	1			1888
"	St. Casimir's (Polish)	1	3	B. S	.
"	Sacred Heart (Italian)	1			1908
Mahanoy Plane	Holy Rosary	1			1872
Minersville	St. Vincent de Paul's	2			1842
"	Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (German)	1	3	St. F.	1855
"	St. Francis' (Lithuanian)	1			....
"	St. Stanislaus' (Polish)	1			.
14	27	36	39		

Place	Name	No. of Priests 1917	No. of Sisters 1916		Founded
New Philadelphia	Holy Family	2	4	S. of M.	1868
"	Sacred Heart (Lithuanian)	1			1896
Newtown	Sacred Heart (German)	1			1909
Port Carbon	St. Stephen's	2	5	I. H.	1847
Pottsville	St. Patrick's	3	10	St. J.	1827
"	St. John the Baptist's (German)	2	6	C. C.	1842
"	St. Joseph's (Italian)	1			Dec., 1905
St. Clair	St. Mary's	2	3	St. J.	1864
"	St. Boniface's (German)	1	2	St. F.	1853
"	Immaculate Conception (Slovak)	1			..
"	SS. Peter & Paul's (Polish)	1			....
"	St. Casimir's (Lithuanian)	1			....
Schuylkill Haven	St. Ambrose's	2	4	St. J.	1851
Shenandoah	Annunciation B. V. M.	3			1870
"	Holy Family (German)	1	3	St. F.	1870
"	St. Casimir's (Polish)	2	9	B. S	....
"	St. George's (Lithuanian)	2			April 23, 1891
"	St. Stanislaus' (Polish)	1	3	B. S	
"	St. Stephen's (Slovak)	1			....
"	Our Lady of Mercy (Syrian)	1			1914
Sheppton	St. Joseph's (Slovak)	1			1894
Tamaqua	St. Jerome's	2			1833
"	SS. Peter & Paul's (Lithuanian)	2			Dec., 1912
Tower City	SS. Peter & Paul's	1			1896
Tremont	Immaculate Conception	1			1853
11	25	38	49		
14	27	36	39		
Total, 25	52	74	88		

NUMBER OF PARISHES, MISSIONS AND SCHOOLS ACCORDING TO NATIONALITY

Nationality	Parishes	Missions	Schools
English	20	9	9
German	8	1	6
Polish	7	1	3
Lithuanian	7	2	0
Slovak	5	1	1
Italian	3	2	0
Magyar	1	0	0
Syrian	1	0	0
8	52	16	19

THE 16 MISSIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS

1 Our Lady of Good Counsel, Gordon, attended from St. Joseph's, Ashland.
2 St. Helen's, Raven Run, attended from St. Joseph's, Girardville.
3 Taylorsville, attended from St. Kyran's, Heckschersville.
4 Greenburg, attended from St. Kyran's, Heckschersville.
5 Mount Laffee, attended from St. Patrick's, Pottsville.
6 Sacred Heart, Port Clinton, attended from St. Ambrose, Schuylkill Haven.
7 St. Patrick's, Gearytown, attended from St. Jerome's, Tamaqua.
8 St. Raphael's, Tuscarora, attended from St. Jerome's, Tamaqua.
9 Our Lady of the Snow, Keffers, attended from Immaculate Conception, Tremont.
10 St. Charles, Blackwood (German), attended from Sacred Heart, Newtown.
11 St. Raphael's, Tuscarora (Polish), attended from SS. Peter & Paul's, St. Clair.
13 St. John's, Coaldale (Lithuanian), attended from SS. Peter & Paul's, Tamaqua.
14 St. John's, Oneida (Slovak), attended from St. Joseph's, Sheppton.
15 Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Shenandoah (Italian), attended from Sacred Heart, Mahanoy City.
12 St. Louis, Maizeville (Lithuanian), attended from St. Vincent's, Girardville.
16 St. Barbara's, Minersville (Italian), attended from St. Joseph's, Pottsville.

THE PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS ARE IN CHARGE OF THE TEACHING SISTERS OF THE FOLLOWING RELIGIOUS ORDERS OF NUNS

Parochial Schools in charge of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Chestnut Hill, 1916.

Heckschersville—St. Kyran's	5
Pottsville—St. Patrick's	10
St. Clair—St. Mary's	3
Schuylkill Haven—St. Ambrose	4
	22

Parochial Schools in charge of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, West Chester, 1916.

Ashland—St. Joseph's	6
Coaldale—St. Mary's	6
Frackville—St. Joseph's	4
Port Carbon—St. Stephen's	5
	21

Parochial Schools in charge of the Sisters of St. Francis, Glen Riddle, 1916.

Ashland—St. Maurice's (German)	4
Mahanoy City—St. Fidelis (German)	4
Minersville—Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (German)	3
St. Clair—St. Boniface's (German)	2
Shenandoah—Holy Family (German)	3
	16

Parochial Schools in charge of the Bernardine Sisters of St. Francis, Reading, Pa., 1916.

Mahanoy City—St. Casimir's (Polish)	3
Shenandoah—St. Stanislaus' (Polish)	3
Shenandoah—St. Casimir's (Polish)	9
	15

Parochial Schools in charge of the Sisters of Christian Charity, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., 1916.

Pottsville—St. John the Baptist's (German)	6

Parochial Schools in charge of the Sisters of Mercy, Wilkes-Barre, 1916.

New Philadelphia—Holy Family	4

Parochial Schools in charge of the Sisters, Mission Workers of the Sacred Heart, Reading, Pa., 1916.

McAdoo—St. Mary's (Slovak)	4

*ABBREVIATIONS—I. H. Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary; St. J., Sisters of St. Joseph; St. F., Sisters of St. Francis; B. S., Bernardine Sisters of St. Francis; C. C., Sisters of Christian Charity; S. of M., Sisters of Mercy; M. W. of S. Heart, Mission Workers of the Sacred Heart.

ROMAN CATHOLIC RUTHENIAN GREEK CHURCHES IN SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

Place Name	No. of Priests 1917	Founded
Brockton, St. Mary's	1	....
McAdoo, St. Mary's	1	....
McAdoo, St. Michael's	1	....
Mahanoy City, St. Mary's	1	....
Mahanoy Plane, St. John the Baptist's	1	....
Middleport, Nativity B. V. M	1	....
Minersville, SS. Peter and Paul's	1	....
Minersville, St. George's	1	....
Shenandoah, St. Michael's	1	1884
Sheppton, St. Mary's	1	....
St. Clair, St. Nicholas	1	....
St. Clair, St. Michael	1	....

These are but a few of the achievements, facts and statistics of the Catholic Church in Schuylkill County, which is a stronghold of the faith in this great Diocese, and the native soil of many of the reverend clergy, one of whom, the Right Reverend Doctor Dougherty, has been elevated to the episcopacy, together with one who, though not a native of Schuylkill County, was raised in the county from childhood, the late Bishop Carroll.

THE FIRST NATIVE OF SCHUYLKILL COUNTY TO BE ELEVATED TO THE PRIESTHOOD

THE REVEREND JOHN FRANCIS BRANAGAN

As far as the writer could ascertain, the Reverend John Francis Branagan was the first born of St. Patrick's Parish, Pottsville, to receive the Tonsure, the four Minor Orders and the three Holy Orders. These were all conferred on him in Philadelphia by the Venerable Bishop Neumann. Father Branagan was born in Pottsville in 1834. He received his early education in Pottsville. Later he entered the Philadelphia Theological Seminary of St. Charles Borromeo, at 18th and Race Streets. He was ordained a priest some time between August 10, 1856, and November 10, 1856.

Who knows when and where? There is a date given, December 19, 1856, which is not correct. He was first stationed at the Episcopal Chapel, at 18th and Summer Streets, Philadelphia. After a short time with the Bishop he was sent as an assistant to the Very Reverend Doctor O'Hara, of St. Patrick's Church, Philadelphia. While there he built the present rectory on South 20th Street, having been directed to do so by the rector. He was appointed rector of the Church of St. John the Evangelist, on South 13th Street, Philadelphia, in 1860, to succeed the Jesuits, who were about to withdraw. Father Branagan, however, remained only a very short time, out of deference to the late Reverend John Patrick Dunn, who was desired to go to St. John's as rector. Father Dunn was rector of St. Theresa's at the time. The Reverend Hugh Lane was pastor of Kellyville, Delaware County. He wished to return to the Church of St. Theresa, which he had built in 1853, so Father Branagan went to St. Charles' Church, Kellyville, as pastor. He was called to Pottsville to attend the funeral of his elder brother Matthew, who had died on June 29, 1863. Father Branagan died very suddenly in St. Patrick's rectory on July 2, 1863. His funeral obsequies were held in Pottsville, at the urgent request of the Reverend Nicholas J. Walsh, rector of St. Patrick's at the time. He is buried in No. 2 Cemetery. Father Branagan was a learned and devout priest, much beloved by all who knew him. He was always in demand on all great occasions in the diocese, either as a master of ceremonies, a singer, a pulpit orator or celebrant. He was looked upon as the highest type of a Christian gentleman. May the Pottsville people ever see that his grave is kept with respect!

THE MOST REVEREND FRANCIS PATRICK KENRICK, D.D., THIRD BISHOP OF PHILADELPHIA AND SIXTH ARCHBISHOP OF BALTIMORE

Just a word about the saintly and learned Bishop who founded St. John's parish in Pottsville, the Right Reverend Francis Patrick Kenrick, D.D. He was born in Dublin December 3, 1796. He was ordained Priest in Rome April 7, 1821, by the Most Reverend Candido Maria Frattini, D.D., Titular Archbishop of Philippi.

He came to Bardstown, Kentucky, September 25, 1821, from the Urban College of the Propaganda, Rome. He was designated Bishop February 25, 1830, by Pope Pius VIII. He received the Papal Bulls May 1, 1830. He was consecrated Titular Bishop of Arath and Coadjutor with the right of succession to Bishop Conwell, of Philadelphia, with full Apostolic jurisdiction to administer the Diocese of Philadelphia, June 6, 1830, in St. Joseph's Cathedral, Bardstown, by the Right Reverend Benedict Joseph Flaget, S.S., D.D., Bishop of Bardstown, assisted by the Right Reverend Henry Conwell, D.D., Bishop of Philadelphia, and the Right Reverend John Baptist Mary David, D.D., Titular Bishop of Mauricastro. The sermon on the solemn

occasion was preached by the Right Reverend John England, D.D., Bishop of Charleston.

He arrived in the city of Philadelphia July 7, 1830. He succeeded with the title of Bishop of Philadelphia on April 22, 1842. He was raised to the Metropolitan See of Baltimore August 3, 1851. He left Philadelphia October 9, 1851. He received the sacred Pallium in the Cathedral of the Assumption, B. V. M., Baltimore, on November 16, 1851, from the Right Reverend John Timon, C.M., D.D., Bishop of Buffalo. The sermon at the investiture was delivered by the Very Reverend Edward Joseph Sourin, Administrator of the Diocese of Philadelphia. The sacred Pallium was brought from Rome by a devout lady named Hunt, whose home was in the city of St. Louis, Mo.

He was the first to receive the appointment of Apostolic Delegate to the United States. He was named Primate of the United States by the Holy See with the right to have his throne one step higher than any other Bishop or Archbishop in the United States, with precedence of all other Bishops and Archbishops anywhere in the United States. He had the privilege of conferring all Pontifical degrees in learning. He was found dead in bed early in the morning of July 8, 1863, in his Archiepiscopal residence. He was buried on July 11, 1863, in a crypt under the Cathedral of Baltimore. His body was removed November 9, 1897, to the Archbishops' new crypt in the rear of and under the Sanctuary of the Cathedral by His Eminence James Cardinal Gibbons, Primate Metropolitan Archbishop of Baltimore, Cardinal-Priest, who was ordained Priest by Archbishop Francis Patrick Kenrick on June 30, 1861.

THE VENERABLE JOHN NEPOMUCEN NEUMANN, C.SS.R., FOURTH BISHOP OF PHILADELPHIA

A word also about the fourth Bishop of Philadelphia, who, in his apostolic zeal, like his venerable predecessor, the saintly and learned Francis Patrick Kenrick, did so much for the good of the people in Schuylkill County.

The Right Reverend John Nepomucen Neumann, C.SS.R., D.D., was born on Thursday in Laetare week, March 28, 1811, at Srachatic, Bohemia, Austria, and baptized the same day in the Church of St. James the Greater. He was the son of Philip and Agnes Lebis Neumann. He came to the United States in 1836, after having received the tonsure and the four minor orders. He received his major orders in New York shortly after his arrival, from the Right Reverend John Dubois, D.D., as follows: Subdeacon, June 19; Deacon, June 24; Priest, June 25. He joined the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer and made his profession in 1842, being the first member to take his vows in the United States. He was named Bishop, February 13, 1852, and was consecrated on Passion Sunday, March 28, 1852, in St. Alphonsus' Church, Baltimore, of which he was the Rector, by the Most Reverend Francis Patrick Kenrick, D.D., Metropolitan Archbishop of Baltimore, assisted by the Right Reverend Bernard O'Reilly, D.D., Bishop of Hartford, and the Very Reverend Francis L'Homme, S.S., V.G., Superior of St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore. The sermon was delivered by the Very Reverend Edward Joseph Sourin, Administrator of the Diocese of Philadelphia. The holy Bishop died suddenly while out on diocesan business, January 5, 1860. He was buried in the sanctuary in front of the main

altar in the basement chapel of St. Peter's Church, 5th Street and Girard Avenue, Philadelphia. Many miracles have been attributed to his holy intercession. His tomb is visited by thousands of people from far and near. On December 15, 1896, began the introduction to the process of Beatification at Rome, bestowing on him the appellation "Venerable."

Who and where is the man of the clergy or laity who will so describe these achievements and facts as to make the Catholic pioneers of these regions live again their heroic lives before us, and who will draw such lawful conclusions from these and other statistics as to make our hearts thrill with pride that we are members of the Catholic Church and may claim these pioneers of the long ago as our own?

May these words of Rev. Richard H. Tierney, S.J., spoken in an address on "American Catholic History and Religion," which he delivered at a meeting of the United States Catholic Historical Society, March 10, 1917, encourage some capable priest or Catholic layman to undertake this grand work in the near future: "American Catholic history is a noble record, apt to fill the memory of our people with heroic names and deeds, to exercise their intellects in high thoughts, to fire their imaginations with sublime pictures, to spur their will to lofty aspirations, to make them love the Faith and hence to live it. In other words American Catholic history because of its educative and emotional value will conserve and spread the Faith."

In writing this "History of the Early Days of the Catholic Church in Schuylkill County," the author is indebted to the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia for certain Pamphlets; to Rt. Rev. Monsignor Francis J. McGovern, for the loan of the translation of the Diary and Visitation Record of Rt. Rev. Francis Patrick Kenrick, D.D.," administrator and Bishop of Philadelphia, 1830-1851; to Rev. Frederick W. Longinus, for the book, "History of Schuylkill County, Pa., With Illustrations and Biographical Sketches," 1881; to the kindness of Mr. James V. Brennan, Publisher, for his reading of the proof-sheets and to Mr. Joseph A. Weber, of Philadelphia, for many valuable corrections and additions; to the Reverend Luke Vincent McCabe, D.D., LL.D., to the Rev. Joseph John Murphy, J.C.D., D.D.; to the Reverend Thomas Francis McNally; to the Reverend Thomas Cooke Middleton, O.S.A., D.D., for the loan of his "Catholic Americana"; to the Sisters of Christian Charity in charge of the excellent School of St. John the Baptist's Parish, and to all others who aided in any manner toward the compilation of these Catholic Historical Notes.

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